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Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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McDonnell extradition OK'd

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A 39-year-old man who faces charges of sexual assault of a child in Illinois has been approved for extradition to that state.

This developed as CNMI Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres issued Friday a governor's arrest for Sean P. McDonnell, at the extradition request of Illinois Gov. Bruce Vincent Rauner.

After listening to the testimony of police sergeant George F. David and the parties' arguments, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho found more than ample information that McDonnell is the same person who is a fugitive in Illinois.

Camacho ordered McDonnell's extradition to Illinois yesterday.

See MCDONNELL on Page 4

$15M supplemental budget for PSS expected in Dec.

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Board of Education expects the release of a $15-million supplemental budget or 25 percent of the reported casino business gross revenue tax amounting to $60 million in December.

According to the CNMI Constitution, the Public School System is entitled to 25 percent of the general revenue of the Commonwealth.

In his report at a PSS board meeting yes-

See BUDGET on Page 4

Allegedly drunk man attacks men playing mahjong

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An allegedly drunk man armed with a machete barged into a group of Chinese men playing mahjong at the Sablan barracks compound in San Antonio on Saturday afternoon, hitting one and causing a laceration to the man's left forearm.

The suspect, Scott Patrick Owen, also allegedly resisted when a police officer tried to secure him for his aggressive behavior. He pulled his left arm to get free and allegedly pushed the officer.

See MAHJONG on Page 4

CHCC DONATION
The Pediatric Unit of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. receives a donation of books and toys for its patients.

See story on Page 4
BEA CABRERA

CHC gains first certified nurse midwife

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center has gained its first certified nurse midwife.

Jin Cody is the first CNMI registered nurse to pass the American Midwifery Certificate board exam. She received her midwifery certification on Nov. 6, 2017.

That makes her the CNMI's first nurse midwife—an advanced practice registered nurse in nurse midwifery, the care of women across their lifespan, including pregnancy and the postpartum period, and well woman care and birth control.

Cody grew up in Northern China and migrated to Saipan in 1997, where she has lived since.

Jin took up nursing at the Northern Marianas

See CHC on Page 4

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Nov. 25 is "Small Business Saturday."

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Two of President Donald Trump's leading economic advisers are sending mixed signals.

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LIFE & STYLE
The 2017 American Music Awards marked a night of unison and American pride.

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Local

MMA hosts music clinic on Tinian

The Marianas Music Association held a music clinic on Tinian over the weekend in the spirit of preserving and promoting indigenous music.

According to MMA president J.J. Concepcion, he and five other MMA members travelled to Tinian over the weekend to host a music clinic at Tinian High School and Tinian Elementary School. Other members of the MMA who took part in the music clinic were Leo Pangelinan, James Selepeo, Gus Litulumar, Pat Romolor, and Alfred Saures.

The training lasted two days and covered over 400 students. The students were able to learn the basics of playing the ukulele, guitar, composing music, audio engineering, and the history of local music.

Concepcion hopes to return to Tinian to guide the students into further advancing their talents. "Hopefully we can go back out there again and take it to the next level."

According to Concepcion, the goal is to mentor the students to get them to the performance level. "The importance of the clinic is to get the children out of their shells and expose them to bigger things."

Concepcion also plans to get the students to record for *Dandan Marianas,* a website that features the compositions and renditions of local musicians.

"I hope to get the students to jam local music and get them on *Dandan Marianas*," he said.

The *Dandan Marianas* website was created by Guam musician Elijah Reyes. ***(Kimberly A. Bautista)***

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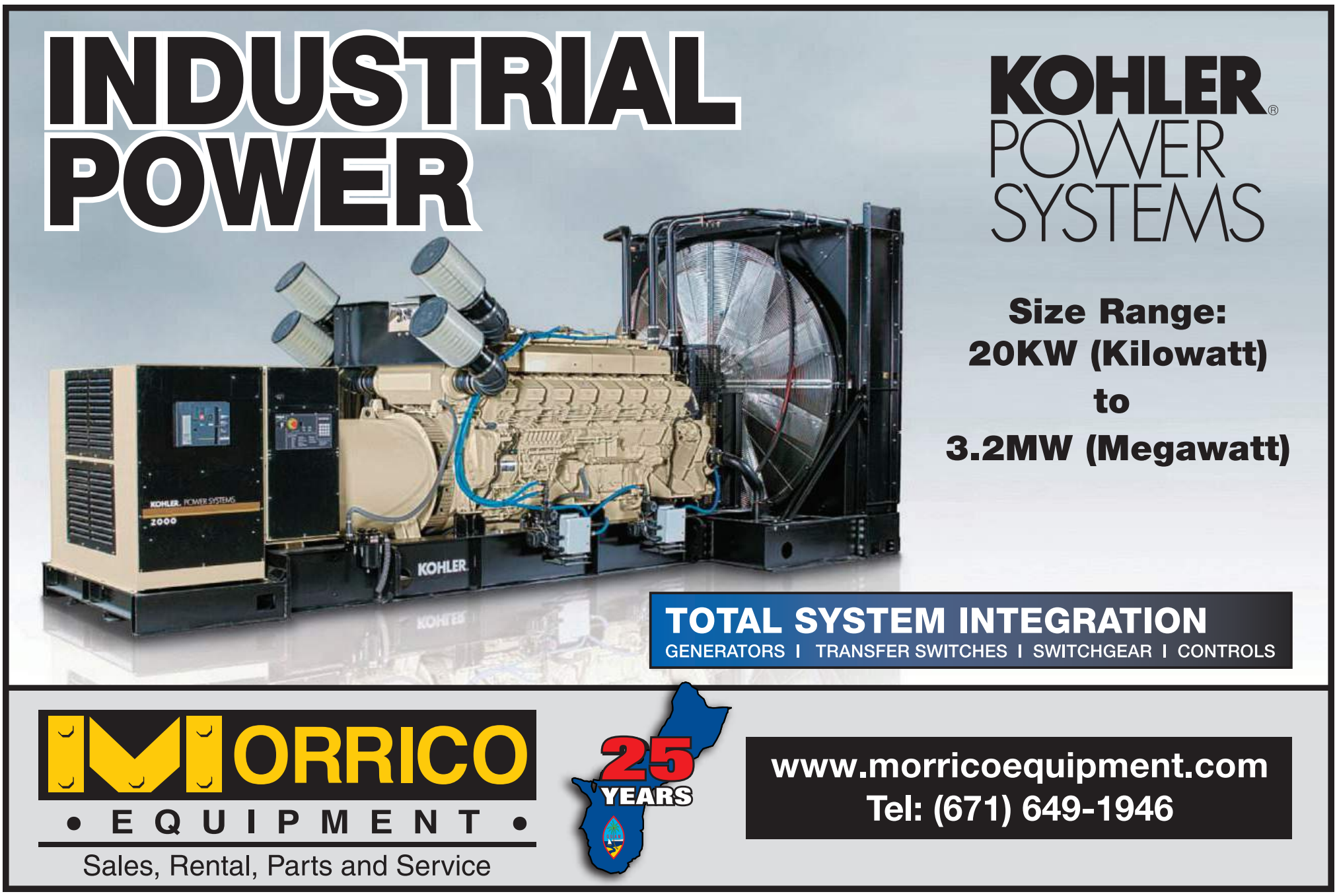

Reserve fund sought for the CNMI's 'future needs'

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As the Commonwealth economy booms, House Speaker Rafael S. Demapan (R-Saipan) wants to create a reserve fund to conserve portions of the Commonwealth's revenue.

He proposes to establish the Commonwealth Reserve Fund, which would be separate from the general fund, for appropriation and expenditure only after 10 years or during emergencies.

The fund would comprise 5 percent of the annual tax revenue, or the business gross revenue tax. The casino tax is separate from this.

Effective on the fiscal year immediately after its passage, Demapan's House Bill 20-100 would create the Commonwealth Reserve Fund Investment board, consisting of five gubernatorial appointees, with the consent of the Senate. Three would represent Saipan while Tinian and Rota would have one representative each. Members of this board will serve for six years and will invest and manage the fund and would report to the "people of the Commonwealth" annually.

At the most recent House Ways and Means Committee meeting, Rep. Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) raised a concern about reporting to the "people of the Commonwealth" annually.

He pointed out that since the governor would be able to tap into the funds and, if the appropriation authority comes from the Legislature, he believes both branches should receive the annual reports as well.

Rep. Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan) asked the committee how much BGRT was collected in fiscal year 2017. According to Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), the collected BGRT was about $70 million, 5 percent of which amount to $3.5 million.

In addition, Deleon Guerrero wants the term "emergency situation" clarified, saying a declaration of a state of emergency is ambiguous. He argued that a state of emergency might be declared as an aftermath of a natural or man-made calamity, economic disturbances, or others.

After much discussion, Rep. Angel Demapan agreed with Deleon Guerrero, adding that comments from other government agencies must be sought first.

"The committee has opted to defer action pending comments from government agencies," he said.

Comments from the Department of Finance, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Department of Public Works, Department of Commerce, Marianas Visitors Authority, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, and the Office of the Attorney General would be solicited first before the committee would further deliberate.

SHEFA due date

To all new and returning Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance applicants: The due date for spring 2018 application is on or before Dec. 1, 2017. If you are an ongoing recipient or if you submitted an application in fall 2017, your application is valid for spring 2018. If you have any question, contact the SHEFA office at 233-5995/235-1020/235-1021 or email saipanshefa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

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7H232	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H247	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H251~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H257	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H258	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
~~7H259~~	~~SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$15,995~~
7H260	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H261	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H270	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995
7H272	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$15,995

2017 VELOSTER

~~7H220~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$17,995~~
7H233	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H235	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$17,995
7H263	YELLOW, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995
7H264	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

2018 ELANTRA

8H010	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$18,995

2017 TUCSON

7H262	BLUE, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H268	BLACK, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H274	BLACK, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995
7H278	PEARL, 4 -CYL. ENGINE, AT,BACK-UP CAM,ALLOY WHEELS	$3,000	$22,995

MITSUBISHI

2017 OUTLANDER SE

~~7M037~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD~~ SOLD	~~$3,000~~	~~$25,995~~
7M038	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995
7M040	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, 7-PASSENGER, 2WD	$3,000	$25,995

mazda

2018 MAZDA 3

		DISCOUNT	PRICE
~~8D023~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$18,995~~
8D025	SILVER, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$18,995
8D026	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D037	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D039	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D040	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEEL	$4,000	$18,995
8D027	WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D028	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D041	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D042	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, HATCHBACK	$4,000	$18,995
8D014	GRAY, LEATHER SEAT, AT, HATCHBACK, GRAND TOURING	$4,000	$22,995

2017 MAZDA 6

~~7D226~~	~~BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, SPORT~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$20,995~~
7D242	BLACK, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, TOURING	$4,000	$21,995

2017 MX-5

7D121	GRAY, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP	$8,000	$25,995
~~7D203~~	~~RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, CLUB SOFT-TOP~~ SOLD	~~$8,000~~	~~$25,995~~

2018 CX-3 SPORT

~~8D043~~	~~WHITE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D045	RED, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
~~8D048~~	~~BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS~~ SOLD	~~$4,000~~	~~$19,995~~
8D049	BROWN, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D050	BLUE, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995
8D051	CERAMIC, 4-CYL. ENGINE, AT, BACK-UP CAM, ALLOY WHEELS	$4,000	$19,995

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CHCC pediatric ward accepts donations

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The pediatric ward of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received books and toys last week as donation for the infants and children currently admitted at the hospital.

According to Hospital and Dialysis administrator Jesse Tudela, the donation came from George and Terry Camacho of Taga Riders Forever Motorcycle Club. They currently reside in Salem, Oregon.

"Three months ago, they gave me a call and said that they wanted to send out stuffed animals and books for our pediatric patients as their donation for the holiday season. They said they will be sending four boxes (two boxes of books and two boxes stuffed animals). We received two boxes and two more are on the way," he said.

"These gifts of books and toys can make a big difference to children and families spending time in the hospital. I know it will lift the spirits of the pediatric patients currently admitted. Right now, there are three children and any new admission from today, we will give out all the toys and books that the Camachos have shipped over," Tudela added.

Tudela said that CHCC is able to ensure that every child receive an extraordinary level of care due to these acts of kindness by donors like the Camachos and Taga Riders Forever.

"This is just in time for the holiday season. This is a message that no one is alone. It may appear like that but donations coming from all over the world shows the kind of hearts we have, hearts that are always ready to help out each other," Tudela said.

"We welcome donations at the hospital whether big or small. The thought really counts regardless of value and we appreciate the commitment of the community to help each other out because we are building a community of grateful families," he added.

COMMITTEE MEETING

The House Ways and Means Committee discusses yesterday one of several bills to adapt for the House of Representatives to deliberate on.

ERWIN ENCINARES

MCDONNELL

From Page 1

David served the governor's arrest warrant on McDonnell in court yesterday at 2:50pm.

Camacho set a status conference for Dec. 15, 2017, at 1:30pm, during which it will be determined if the sheriff and/or the designated agents of the Rock Island County Sheriff's Office has already picked up McDonnell from the CNMI by that time.

Chief Prosecutor Michele Harris said that Attorney General Edward Manibusan was pleased with the court's decision.

"It shows that we are working cooperatively across borders to ensure justice to victims of abuse," Harris said.

McDonnell is wanted in Illinois on multiple charges of predatory criminal sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl.

A joint effort between the U.S. Marshals and the Department of Public Safety led to McDonnell's arrest in Susupe last Oct. 6.

Rauner sent Torres an extradition request for McDonnell last Nov. 13.

Rauner said it appears by the probable cause affidavit, information, and warrant that McDonnell, while in Rock Island in Illinois on Feb. 1, 2015, and Sept. 7, 2017, committed the offenses of criminal sexual assault and predatory criminal sexual assault of a child.

Rauner said the fugitive fled from Illinois and taken refuge in the CNMI.

Rauner asked Torres that McDonnell be apprehended and delivered to the custody of Rock Island County Sheriff Gerry Bustos or his designated agent.

In issuing the governor's arrest warrant, Torres commanded the Office of the Attorney General, DPS, and any law enforcer to arrest McDonnell and extradite him to Bustos for transport to Illinois.

At the hearing yesterday, assistant attorney general Jonathan L. Wilberscheid asserted that the Commonwealth has established a *prima facie* case for extraditing McDonnell.

Wilberscheid said that McDonnell's extradition is appropriate as all the extradition documents have already been filed in court.

David testified that they received information in the first week of October 2017 from the U.S. Marshal about the state warrant and photos of McDonnell. When the CNMI police apprehended McDonnell, he was at the time walking on the main road in Susupe, carrying a backpack, David said.

He said they recognized McDonnell because of the photos and his tattoos on his arms.

David said McDonnell also confirmed it was him and his Illinois driver's license and other documents confirmed it.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski, counsel for McDonnell, said under federal law a fugitive should be extradited 30 days after such order is issued.

Dominksi expressed concern that McDonnell may languish in the Department of Corrections as the extradition request has no specific date as to when the sheriff will pick him up from the CNMI.

BUDGET

From Page 1

terday, financial consultant Ed Tenorio said the Legislature should be hearing from Gov. Ralph Deleon Guerrero about PSS within two weeks.

"We met with the chairmen of the [House] Education and Ways & Means committees to get an update on the status of the appropriation. They are saying that the governor is putting together plans to dispose the remaining funds from the casino. So hopefully there is going to be movement in the coming weeks and we are looking at getting this appropriation in December," he said.

Citing the source of funds for PSS for fiscal year 2018, Tenorio said the appropriation from the general fund is based on Public Law 20-11.

"We have $36.3 million coming from the general fund, $221,603 from the Compact Impact, $327,535 from the Tobacco Settlement money, $188,507 under Board of Education, $69,435 from Appropriation Act given to co-op ed, and then the last one is the supplemental budget appropriation of $15 million, which we are waiting."

"We have the appropriation of $36 million. The $15 million due us is coming pretty soon, giving us a total funding of $51 million, exclusive of federal resources," he added.

Tenorio said the $15-million supplemental budget will go to Group Health and Life Insurance program for 2017 and 2018, operational costs for schools and the PSS central office, required federal matching funds, utilities, textbooks, school bus and fuel, settlement agreement with retirement, school repairs for Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, USDA annual loan repayment, and building insurance required by Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We also have to refer to the court's mandate," BOE member Herman T. Guerrero said, "where the governor is required to submit a detailed breakdown of the casino BGRT. To date the governor hasn't complied yet.

"I think the court is requesting for a detailed breakdown of the casino BGRT since its inception. PSS is entitled to 25 percent of the total of that. We are only assuming that it is $15 million but that could be a little bit more. I just want to make sure that the PSS doesn't get shortchanged."

"We are very much interested because it will determine exactly how much we are going to get. That's why what I am echoing to Ed [Tenorio] to make sure that we don't get locked in with $15 million. At least we have a figure but it could be more and we want to see because if we are entitled to more, then PSS should get it," he added.

Guerrero said: "We know that the governor he has been using a sort of 'hot spots' like land compensation, salary increase, etc. so he is doing something but excluding PSS."

"For me, earmarking by the constitution takes precedence over a legislative or even a judicial mandate because the Constitution is the law of the land," he added.

Tenorio said that they will make sure that the 25 percent allotted to PSS is in fact in the appropriation of the casino BGRT.

"Otherwise, we will resort to other ways to acquire it," he added.

CHC

From Page 1

College and graduated from its nursing program in 2006.

After passing the National Council Licensure Exam, or NCLEX, Cody worked as a registered nurse at the Labor & Delivery Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center for eight years, from 2007 until 2015.

"While working in the Labor and Delivery Unit at CHC, I became fascinated with the birthing process and decided to focus my healthcare training in that endeavor," she said.

In 2016, Cody decided to become a midwife and enrolled in an online graduate program offered by the Frontier Nursing University in Kentucky.

Cody was inspired to pursue a certification in Midwifery Studies because she saw how challenging the process is.

"As a registered nurse in the L&D Unit at CHCC, I found the process of assisting expectant mothers to be extremely challenging and fulfilling. At that point, I became determined to get the needed education to become a midwife," she said.

Cody's hard work paid off. "My education was difficult, but I persisted," she said.

Cody's training also provided her with hands-on training in a hospital in Indiana.

"In early 2017, I spent six months in clinical training in a large hospital in Indiana, where I delivered 45 babies and worked in a women's health clinic. That experience proved to be invaluable," she said.

Cody is determined to use her knowledge to provide further assistance to mothers in the Commonwealth. She recently returned to CHCC to help improve the prenatal, intrapartum and postpartum care offered in the Commonwealth.

"I know that the Northern Marianas is an underserved area that needs healthcare professionals. As a member of the community for the past 20 years, I am excited to be able to help provide quality care in women's health. I hope to help the community adopt healthy practices that will ensure positive outcomes for both expectant mothers and their babies," she said.

MAHJONG

From Page 1

Owen, 41, jobless, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest.

At yesterday's initial court appearance hearing, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the $25,000 cash bail initially imposed on Owen.

When asked, Owen said his passport was stolen in Guam.

Assistant public defender Nancy Dominski served as counsel for the defendant.

Preliminary hearing will be on Nov. 27 at 1:30pm.

According to police detective Wally Emul Jr., police received a call about an assault with a dangerous weapon at the Sablan barracks compound on Saturday at 1:36pm.

When police officer Maverick Saures arrived at the compound, he saw two Chinese men holding a man, later identified as Owen.

Saures observed that the Owen had bloodstains all over his clothes. Owen allegedly resisted by pulling his hand and pushing the officer. Saures then brought him down. That prompted Owen to shout profanities at the Chinese men.

Saures noticed that among the Chinese men in the area was one whose left forearm was bleeding badly due to a 5.5-centimeter laceration. Saures called the Department of Public Safety central through radio to request for a medic.

Another officer arrived and assisted Saures in securing Owen.

The alleged victim told police that he was playing mahjong with another man when Owen came and sat by the table, drinking a bottle of vodka. Three more men came, drank with the alleged victim, and joined the game.

The victim said the problem started when he and his companions began speaking Chinese. Owen stood up and yelled profanities at them. He got a machete from his room and brandished it toward those playing mahjong.

The victim said he made a gesture for Owen to calm down, but the suspect instead sliced his left forearm.

INVESTITURE RITES
Court staff members pose with Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan, his wife Tomoko, and his father-in-law Nobuhisa Kawakata during the recent investiture ceremony for Bogdan at the CNMI Supreme Court. FERDIE DE LA TORRE

'CUC can support CNMI tech industry'

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's economic diversification is in the pipeline and making the Commonwealth known for a strong technology industry is one of the priorities of the administration of Gov. Ralph DLG Torres. But what that tech industry would look like is still up in the air.

According to Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Torres' chief of staff and member of the Strategic Economic Development Council, in what way a technology industry will be realized has yet to be seen, as many factors are still being studied.

"Branching out to the tech industry is carefully being given a lot of weight, planning, and discussion...We are also making improvements on the efficiency of the generating capacity of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to be able to handle an energy-intensive industry," he said.

CUC executive director and SEDC member Gary Camacho said that CUC fully supports that. The only thing needed is to ensure that CUC is equipped to grow with it.

"It is basically responsibility that we need to have. We are closely working with the administration and soon with the board in many ways to address and put into place mechanisms that will assist in dealing with economic growth and diversification in the CNMI," he said.

"The annual utility growth in the U.S. is 1 percent a year. In CUC, we have had significant growth and the demand has increased over 40 percent over the last year and a half so the challenges are there. Many of my counterparts in the other utilities in the Pacific and in the U.S. mainland have told me that this is a serious challenge for CUC and that has also been expressed in the SEDC meetings," he added.

Camacho agrees with Deleon Guerrero that further study needs to be done to build a tech industry in the CNMI, not only on the part of SEDC but also within CUC.

"It is imperative that we understand that growth should pay for growth. We are very fortunate to have growth but as far as utilities is concerned, infrastructure should pay for growth. CUC has something in place to grow with the CNMI economy because, as a utilities corporation, we have to be prepared and that is the thing about the many utilities through out the world."

"Currently, we do have the infrastructure to address the current and new demands but it's important that we understand that the utilities grow alongside with every aspect of the community and economy. We do not want to get ahead building infrastructure for possible expansions to other areas that will eventually be not utilized," he added.

Camacho said that utilities must run as a business and like any business it must charge for its services and the growth.

"We don't want to be paying for assets that are not generating revenue. We would like to be able to expand but mechanisms must have to be put in place so we can have a vibrant economy and continue to support the economy," he said.

According to Camacho, CUC is encouraged with how the economy is doing and is always looking for ways to provide added service.

"We want to help every time and all the time. We can support whatever power supply is needed but the reality is, some of this takes time and it may not be in place at that particular moment of need. But then we will make sure…that it gets here relatively quickly. Currently, there are a lot of discussions, planning, and action to address that," he said.

"We are doing a lot in acquiring grants to…assist us in our operational expenses in dealing with our old infrastructure. We have a strategic planning group that we put together that is preparing and following growth and seeing what new demands are being brought in for the utilities that we have to address," Camacho added.

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HPO sees increase in earthmoving permit applications

With the close of fiscal year 2017 in October, the Historic Preservation Office saw an increase in the number of earthmoving permit applications, reviewing and processing a total of 596 HPO clearances.

That is an increase of 69 compared to the 527 posted in fiscal year 2016 for all One-Start Earthmoving Permit Applications transmitted to HPO from the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality for the three islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

"Of these applicants, the island of Saipan processed a total of 535, with 36 for Tinian, and 25 for Rota. In addition, 28 permit applications required professional archaeologists due to the project location's sensitivity and archaeological environment," according to historic preservation officer Mertie Kani.

As for federally funded projects, Kani noted that HPO reviewed and commented on a total of 37 federally funded Section 106 projects in fiscal year 2017.

"As part of a federal regulation under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the HPO consults with federal agencies, local agencies administering federal funds, and consultants working on federally funded or permitted projects that have the potential to affect significant cultural resources," Kani added.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Robert Hunter said the increasing number of projects emphasizes the need to strengthen compliance, noting that federally mandated positions are now filled.

"The increase in One-Start Permit applications is directly due to economic growth and investment. That we now have two critical and federally mandatory positions filled, that of the staff archaeologist and the historian, goes a long way towards seeing that our HPO meets the demands of the review of earthmoving permits and monitoring and carries out its other mandated duties," Hunter said.

Hunter said that hiring HPO staff historian Lucas Simonds and HPO staff archaeologist James R. Pruitt come at a very critical time in economic development.

"The Historic Preservation Office's staff historian position is finally filled in to complete the HPO staffing requirement as part of the Historic Preservation Fund Grant. HPO now has a fulltime staff historian who is responsible for all professional consultation in matters pertaining to history and historical research. In addition, he works hand-in-hand with the staff archaeologist in promoting, protecting and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the history of the Northern Mariana Islands," Hunter said.

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres reiterated that the vacant positions were difficult to fill, but HPO can now move forward with improving and strengthening historic preservation needs.

"It remains critical that developments stay compliant and that proposed projects are in the best interest of the Commonwealth with respect to our island's natural resources. I am pleased that these key positions have been filled after a very difficult time with limited resources in meeting federal guidelines. I commend the diligence performed by all our permitting agencies. I am hopeful that the preservation of our island's heritage are in good hands and that there is assurance of all earthmoving activities being performed to minimize environmental impacts, which will ensure preservation for our future generations," Torres said. ***(PR)***

BEATING DIABETES
PREVENTING DIABETES
BE ACTIVE
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EAT HEALTHY
Make healthy food choices. Cut down on processed and high fat foods. Eat smaller portion sizes or rice, pasta, breads and sweets.
MANAGE YOUR WEIGHT
Weight Loss of 5 to 7% body weight can reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes.
COMPLICATIONS RELATED TO DIABETES
EYES
Can damage blood vessels causing cataracts, glaucoma and even blindness
HEART
Can increase risk of heart attacks and strokes
KIDNEYS
Can cause damage to the kidneys that can lead to kidney failure and dialysis
NERVES
Can cause damage to nerves that result in pain, numbness or tingling in the hands and feet
FEET
Can cause reduced blood flow to legs and feet. Wounds of the feet are likely to heal slowly, which can lead to gangrene and other complications like amputations.
MANAGING DIABETES
Be Active
Physical activity can help lower blood sugar levels and aid in maintaining a healthy weight.
Make Healthy Food Choices
Eat a balanced meal. Try the 'Diabetes Plate Method' of eating to help you controlling portion sizes. Make sure 1/2 of your plate is non-starchy vegetables (lettuce, cabbage, green beens, eggplant), 1/4 is protein (chicken, fish, lean meats, eggs) and other 1/4 is grains/ starchy vegetables (brown rice, taro, sweet potato, squash)
Take Medications
Take medications as prescribed by your doctor. If your sugars are consistently above or below the goal level, see your provider.
Limit Stress
Stress can cause your blood sugar levels to rise. Talk to a loved one or medical professional for support.
Keep Teeth Healthy
High blood sugar levels can increase your risk for tooth decay and gum diseases.
Check Your Blood Sugar
Check your blood sugar levels and write them down. If you notice higher or lower readings, let your health care provider know.
Don't Smoke
Smoking can increase your likelihood of diabetes complications.
Check Your Feet
Check your feet daily for cuts, sores, and swelling. Call your doctor if needed.

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For more information please contact the Non-Communicable Disease Bureau at 236-8727

THANKSGIVING HOURS

Bank of Guam closed Thursday and Friday

Bank of Guam is announcing the following Thanksgiving holiday hours:

■ **Thursday, Nov. 23:** All Guam, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, and San Francisco branches will be closed. Customer Service Department will also be closed.

■ **Friday, Nov. 24:** All Guam, CNMI, FSM, and SF branches will be closed.

Guam and CNMI branches that normally open on Saturdays will operate as usual, from 9am to 1pm.

■ **Monday, Nov. 27:** All Guam branches will close at 3pm. ***(PR)***

CUC hours on Thanksgiving

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s office hours on Nov. 23 and Nov. 24 is as follows:

Thursday: Closed for Thanksgiving holiday

Friday: Customer Service Center is open 8am to 12pm for payments and purchase of prepaid meter tokens (load) only. All Other Offices will be closed

Regular business hours will resume on Monday, Nov. 27, 2017. For emergencies, contact the CUC Call Center at 664-4282 (4CUC). ***(CUC)***

Administrative leave for Friday

Heading into the Thanksgiving holiday weekend, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres is authorizing non-critical Commonwealth employees to go an administrative leave on Friday, Nov. 24, 2017. "With all the work we have done together to and so much progress still ahead of us, we really have much to be grateful for this past year. I thank you all for your hard work and service to improve these islands we call home. Let us continue to practice gratitude and work toward building a better Commonwealth," he said in a statement. ***(PR)***

Transfer station, landfill closed for Thanksgiving

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, Thursday, Nov. 23, both the Lower Base transfer station and the Marpi landfill waste disposal facilities will be closed all day. ***(PR)***

Holiday closures at AMP

American Memorial Park officials would like to inform the public that the Visitor Center will be closed in observance of the following federal holidays:

■ Nov. 23, 2017: Thanksgiving Day

■ Dec. 25, 2017: Christmas Day

■ Jan. 1, 2018: New Year's Day

On these days, the rest of the park will remain open. Park staff would like to encourage the public to explore the Visitor Center. With the exception of the holidays, the visitor center is open every day from 9am to 5pm.

For more information contact park ranger Brooke Nevitt at 234-7207 x 2020 or via email at brooke_nevitt@nps.gov. ****PR)***

Church 360 activities for Thanksgiving

Church 360 will be holding several activities to celebrate Thanksgiving. All events are open to the community. This Sunday, Nov. 19, will be a Thanksgiving Service at 10:15am, with a potluck to follow. The church is providing the turkey and ham. On Thanksgiving Day, Church 360 will hold a Praise Service at 6pm. There will be a game time to follow for any one who would like to stay. Both of these events will be held at Church 360 on the fourth floor of the Marianas Business Plaza.

On Saturday, Nov. 25, Church 360 will host a six-vs-six volleyball tournament at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Beach Courts starting at 2pm. Teams can be formed ahead of time or at the court. Participants and spectators are asked to bring a chair. Drinks and snacks will be provided.

For more information email flybjrew@yahoo.com or call 256-8171. ***(PR)***

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NOW $30,299*

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NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Blue, STK#U17-116R
NOW $30,599*

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4x4, V6, Auto, Red, STK#U17-111T
NOW $30,599*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 2WD, Gray, STK#U17-107R
NOW $30,799*

2016 Highlander LE SUV
4-cyl, Auto, 6-spd, 2WD, Black, STK#U17-125R
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4WD, V6, White, STK#U17-128L
NOW $31,399*

2015 Toyota Sienna LE
8-pax Van, Red, 6-Cyl, STK#U17-050R
WAS $34,499*
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2015 Tacoma DC
V6, Auto, 4WD, Blue, STK#U17-097T
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V-6, Auto, Silver, STK#U17-079T
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'Detecting financial crime is critical to economy'

Over 60 personnel from the Division of Customs, the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Casino Commission completed financial crime training with the Oceania Customs Organization last Friday.

CNMI Customs director Jose Mafnas said that collaboration is key to tackling financial crime and enhancing law enforcement.

"We've established that we must begin meeting frequently so that we can tackle these issues. If agencies are divided, criminal activities become stronger, but if we work together we are at an advantage," Mafnas said.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that preserving the integrity of the gaming industry as well as the safety of the community and employees is supported.

"We've spoken about legislation to reflect our current needs as we move forward and there is room to share critical law enforcement information. One thing that is the most valuable is we have met face-to-face, and we all have a duty to protect the Commonwealth. We all have many responsibilities but the CCC maintains its responsibility to track the movement of money and report activities. We want to make sure we protect our community while being fair and transparent. This is why consistent training is a priority and together we can identify what type of training we need throughout the year for all our agencies," Deleon Guerrero said, while giving thanks to the Division of Customs, gaming commissioners, and CCC personnel.

Over 60 personnel from the Division of Customs, the Division of Revenue and Taxation, the Department of Public Safety, and the Commonwealth Casino Commission completed financial crime training with the Oceania Customs Organization last Friday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson said the Oceania Customs Organization has been instrumental in providing the knowledge and training to address regional concerns over the year.

"Training of our Customs officers has increased and has consistently benefitted our detection efforts and the deterrence of crime. Through the OCO, we are addressing money laundering, drug and human trafficking…With OCO operations manager Tevita Tupuo and Roy Lagolago, along with strengthened inter-agency collaboration, law enforcement, border security and enhanced trade and revenue management will improve," Larson said.

The casino industry in the Commonwealth is still in its infancy, said Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres, but maintaining the integrity of its growth is needed.

"We continue to be mindful of current trends to equip our borders, and strengthen communication and training for all personnel across agencies toward a common goal. I would like to reiterate that detecting financial crimes is crucial to the integrity of our overall economy. We want to ensure that our agencies receive what they need to strengthen regulations and enforcement. This means consistent collaboration, training, appropriate legislation, and sustaining our resources to increase these efforts moving forward. With the growth of the economy in mind, the safeguarding of our community will always remain a priority. I extend my appreciation to all collaborating agencies to continue this capacity building and increased foresight for our entire community," Torres said. ***(PR)***

From left to right, instructor Tevita Tupou, Finance Secretary Larissa Larson, Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Commonwealth Casino Commission chair Juan Sablan, CCC executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero, Customs director Jose C. Mafnas, instructor Roya Lagolago, CCC commissioner Alvaro Santos, and CCC commissioner Justin Manglona pose for a picture last Friday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

ERWIN ENCINARES

Gov. Ralph DLG. Torres and Finance Secretary Larrisa Larson discuss financial crime detection with Oceania Customs Organization manager Tevita Tupuo and Roy Lagolago last Friday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Jiang Zheng Group Inc. dba Shanghai Guest House

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.

Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 04, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

NOTICE OF ZONING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING

for

Yes Corporation

The Public is invited to attend and provide comments at a Zoning Board public hearing on this request for Conditional Use Permit. YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

Date: Tuesday, December 05, 2017
Time: 5:00 pm
Place: Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe

Comments on the proposal may be submitted orally or in writing at the public hearing. Written comments may be submitted directly to the Zoning Office before 4:30 pm, December 04, 2017. Please send written comments via e-mail toTherese.Ogumoro@zoning.gov.mp, via US mail to Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950, or deliver them to the Zoning Office, 2nd floor, Joeten Building, Dandan, Saipan.

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the public hearing, or if you require assistance, please call 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq.) and the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013.

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Chairman

Commonwealth Zoning Board Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, December 05, 2017
5:00 PM, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multipurpose Center, Susupe
Tel: 234-9661 • Fax: 234-9666 • www.zoning.gov.mp

A. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of 11/09/2017 meeting minutes
5. Public Comments *(not related to files for discussion under item B. Public Hearings)*

B. Public Hearings:
1. **Conditional Use Application #2017-3788:** Jiang Zhen Group dba Shanghai Guest House is proposing to occupy an existing 4-storey building structure consisting of 8 units to operate a motel. This use is classified as "Hotel/Motel" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. H.86-1 in Sadog Tasi. This area is zoned as Rural.
2. **Conditional Use Application #2017-4537:** YES Corporation dba YES Bed & Breakfast is proposing to occupy an existing 7-bedroom residential home and rent out 5 units for its Bed & Breakfast establishment. This use is classified as "Bed & Breakfast" and is permitted in the district as a Conditional Use. This project is located on Lot No. 003 I 30 along Tarakitu Street in San Antonio. This area is zoned as Village Residential.

C. Communication
D. Old Business
E. New Business
1. Operations Reports (Permitting & Enforcement/Public Hearing Procedures)

F. Executive (Closed) Session
G. Miscellaneous
a. Other Matters
b. Announcements
c. Next Meeting

H. Adjourn

For questions or access to materials to be considered at the Board meeting, or if you require assistance, please contact the Zoning Administrator, Therese T. Ogumoro, at 234-9661. This notice is provided pursuant to Public Law 6-32, as amended (2 CMC 7201, et seq. & 10 CMC 3511, et seq.).

/s/ Diego C. Blanco, Zoning Board Chairman

Christmas in the Marianas returns in December

The Marianas Visitors Authority, PDM Promoters Inc., Team PDI, and other travel partners will bring back Christmas in the Marianas every Saturday in December at Paseo de Marianas in downtown Garapan.

The monthlong celebration offers weekly holiday entertainment for visitors and residents, alike, from 5pm to 9pm each night.

The annual schoolwide Christmas Tree Decoration Competition will be held on Dec. 2, along with the official lighting of the pedestrian mall Christmas tree and a Christmas caroling competition for elementary schools. The school trees, decorated with recyclable material, will remain on display at the pedestrian mall throughout the month.

"In the spirit of the holidays, we are pleased to announce the return of Christmas in the Marianas every Saturday in December in downtown Garapan," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The enthusiasm of students is contagious, and we invite the public to come down any or every night for the festivities. We really can't say enough about the effort of our partners PDM Promoters and Team PDI in making this a joyful holiday for the children, and especially the education tax credit donations given by local businesses for the schools."

MVA

Students display their Christmas costume made from recyclable and natural material during the Marianas Visitors Authority's Christmas in the Marianas at Paseo de Marianas on Dec. 17, 2016. Christmas in the Marianas will return every Saturday evening in December 2017.

On Dec. 9, middle and high school students will continue with the Christmas Caroling Competition.

On Dec. 16, the Parade of Floats will be held around sunset from the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan along Beach Road to the American Memorial Park, followed by a costume show. Awards for all competitions will also be made. Winners of all competitions will also be announced on Dec. 16. The event will run from 5pm to 9pm for the first three Saturdays.

Dec. 23 will feature individual acts; interested musicians and performers may contact MVA Community Projects specialist Lynn Sablan at 664-3200/01 to request to be scheduled.

The Japanese Mochitsuki Festival will be held on Dec. 30, marking the pounding of rice to make *mochi*, a traditional event in preparation for the new year.

Participating schools are Oleai, Koblerville, Gregorio T. Camacho, Kagman, and San Vicente elementary schools; Hopwood Jr., Chacha Ocean View, Tanapag, and Dandan middle schools; Kagman and Marianas high schools; Agape Christian School, Seventh Day Adventist School, Saipan Community School, Green Meadow School, Saipan International School, Northern Marianas International School, and Grace Christian Academy.

For more information, contact Sablan at jsablan@mymarianas.com or 664-3210. ***(MVA)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Free seminar on record keeping for farmers

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The Benefits of Record Keeping for Farmers with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 4, 2017, from 5pm to 6:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbden.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

Free seminar on microloan with USDA-FSA

The CNMI Small Business Development Center and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency will be offering a free business seminar called "The ABC's of Applying for a Microloan with USDA Farm Service Agency" at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute on Dec. 5, 2017, from 8 am to 9:30pm. To register, contact the CNMI SBDC office at 664-3018 or visit http://pisbdcn.ecenterdirect.comievents. ***(PR)***

VA benefits counselor to visit Saipan in Dec.

A U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits Administration benefits counselor will be at the Saipan VA Outreach Clinic on Dec. 15, 2017, from 9:30am to 3:30pm. The benefits counselor will be available to answer benefits questions, and assist with the claim process. The Saipan VA Outreach Clinic is located at the MH II Bldg. Suite 206, Marina Heights Business Park in Garapan. To request an appointment, contact Ruth Coleman at 322-0035. ***(PR)***

Guam awarded $301,529 for sex offender management

HAGÅTÑA, Guam—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) announced yesterday that the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Sex Offender Sentencing, Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking has awarded Guam a $301,529 grant.

The Guam Judicial Branch was awarded the money to run the Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program.

This grant will assist the Guam judiciary to develop and enhance sex offender registration and notification programs. The $301,529 will also help the Guam courts implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act, or SORNA, and protect the community from sex offenders through a national system for the registration of offenders.

The Guam judiciary will enhance SORNA by implementing guidelines for sex offender treatment, building capacity for the Guam SORNA team, digitizing records, and expanding the database while working with local and federal partners. The Guam judiciary will take the lead to educate stakeholders and establish a formal, structured range of sex offender treatment.

"I look forward to seeing these funds put to work by our judiciary and improving our community's safety. This grant from the U.S. Department of Justice provides critical federal assistance to Guam to monitor sex offenders," said Bordallo. "The Guam Sex Offender Registry is an important tool to keep our community safe and informed. These funds will also help fully implement the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act and will make Guam a safer place for our families to live." ***(PR)***

RESIDENTIAL, GOVERNMENT & BUSINESS

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that all current and outstanding billing of accounts are due on or before **Tuesday, November 21, 2017.** Payment not received by close of business on **November 21, 2017** will result in temporary suspension of all services after 6 p.m.

To avoid any service interruption, customers are hereby advised to kindly remit payment for their billing on or before **Tuesday, November 21, 2017**. Any disputed charges must be brought to IT&E's attention either in writting or in person to the IT&E Chalan Laulau Store by 5 p.m. on **Tuesday, November 21, 2017**. Any undisputed amounts must still be paid to avoid temporary suspension of services.

If you have any questions regarding billing or services, please contact the Customer Care Center at (670) 682-4ITE (4483) or visit the IT&E Store in Chalan Laulau.

IT&E

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SHELL Service Stations -- up to 4:00PM
Chalan Laulau (Monday to Saturday) – 8:00AM to 5:00PM
TSL Plaza (Monday to Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Kagman Store (Monday, Wednesday, Friday) – 9:00AM to 6:00PM
Tinian / Rota Office (Monday to Friday) – 8:00AM to 4:30PM

PAY BY PHONE: 682-4ITE OR PAY YOUR BILL ONLINE AT MYBILLING.ITE.NET

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Opinion

Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

From the rubble of Sept. 11

In the days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, America pursued two wars. One was a major military campaign to rout al-Qaida from Afghanistan and kill terrorists everywhere. The other was covert: a dramatically ramped-up electronic surveillance program to ferret out extremists and thwart their plots.

Congress approved key laws for both. Now Congress is again debating whether, and how, those laws should be renewed.

The first, and most crucial, has a mouthful of a name: Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Amendments Act. It expires at year's end if Congress doesn't act.

Under 702, U.S. authorities work with telecom companies to secretly gather phone and electronic communications of foreigners outside the United States. In doing so, some emails, phone calls and texts of American citizens may also be incidentally swept into the net.

Privacy advocates want Congress to require government officials to obtain warrants in order to search for and access the content of Americans' phone calls and emails obtained under the law. Those who favor privacy reforms say they will help shield the communications of American citizens from federal prying.

Those who favor leaving the law largely as is, including the FBI and President Donald Trump, counter that these reforms would create more hurdles for authorities and hamper terror investigations. They say that current safeguards to prevent abuses are sufficient.

In the past, we've argued against anything that threatens to slow or derail terror investigations. We'll stand by that. We like the outlines of a bipartisan bill that would renew 702; it's called the USA Liberty Act, which recently advanced from the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, because it preserves the government's maximum latitude to pursue conspirators.

The other national security law Congress should renew: Just after 9/11, Congress authorized the president to use military force against nations, groups or individuals in response to the attacks. This is known as the AUMF—Authorization for Use of Military Force. Even though lawmakers may have thought they were greenlighting a limited use of force against specific enemies, three presidents have invoked its authority to justify battling terrorists around the globe.

We've watched Congress duck a vote on this issue for years. Lawmakers know that military actions can be messy and unpopular. They figure if things go well, they can always cheer. If things go poorly, well, the president gets the blame for recklessness and poor planning, don't you see?

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THANKSGIVING 2017
A BIG TURKEY WITH LOTS OF STUFFING AND THIN SKIN.
HAROLD, I TOLD YOU NOT TO TALK ABOUT POLITICS AT THE DINNER TABLE.
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LAS VEGAS SUN
MIKE SMITH

When bosses are bullies

By DAVID LIEBERMAN
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Too many corporate leaders find it expedient to look the other way when bosses—especially ones they deem indispensable—systematically intimidate and humiliate underlings. Bullies who believe that their whims matter more than other people's dignity often don't see why their sexual impulses shouldn't be just as indulged.

Sweden, France and Belgium, as well as the Canadian province of Quebec, have passed anti-workplace bullying laws. Courts in Spain, Germany and Great Britain consider it a violation of other statutes.

The U.S. should follow their lead. Workplace bullying is morally repugnant, bad for business and it seems to correlate closely with sexual harassment. Harvey Weinstein and Fox News head Roger Ailes, for example, were famous for their general cruelty long before we knew how they treated women.

"Harvey was a bully. Harvey was arrogant," his brother, Bob, told the Hollywood Reporter. "That I knew. And I had to clean up for so many of his employee messes. People that came in crying to my office: 'Your brother said this, that and the other.' And I'd feel sick about it."

But, he said, he didn't do anything because "it didn't rise to a certain level." Instead, he counseled employees to "leave, please leave."

Ailes' behavior was just as obvious. "The real harassment was emotional harassment," CNN anchor Alisyn Camerota—who worked for 16 years at Fox News—said on air in April after Ailes died. "I went to my superiors to talk to them about it, and there was certainly a feeling like, 'This is Roger. What are you going to do? Who are you going to go to?' " She added: "He'd call people names. And it was that feeling of not wanting to run afoul of him. That was really the chilling effect."

Abused employees would be able to go to court if states or Congress adopted laws like the Healthy Workplace Bill, proposed by Suffolk University Law School professor David Yamada. He found that U.S. courts rarely sided with victims of bullying who sought relief under employment laws that already prohibit "intentional infliction of emotional distress." Taking a page from the standards for a hostile work environment established under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Healthy Workplace Bill would empower employees to sue companies for actions that "a reasonable person would find abusive, based on the severity, nature or frequency of the conduct."

That would "patch a hole in discrimination law," says Gary Namie, director of the Workplace Bullying Institute, an advocacy group. Employees need the leverage provided by a spelled-out set of protections because perpetrators often are considered indispensable, even if they are jerks.

And there are a lot of them. In an April online Zogby Analytics survey, about 9 percent of the respondents said they'd been bullied at work within the last year, and an additional 10 percent said they'd experienced it too, though not in the last year. That would translate to about 30 million employees. Men in the survey accounted for about 70 percent of the perpetrators and they targeted women 65 percent of the time. Female bullies targeted women 67 percent of the time. Although the survey covered all workplace bullying, the most common and extreme examples involved bosses bullying subordinates.

State and local chambers of commerce and other business groups have effectively fought the Healthy Workplace Bill. It has been defeated in 29 state legislatures. Its opponents say it's too vague and too likely to sink small businesses with unfair lawsuits. They worry about undermining hard-driving perfectionists who prove to be business geniuses, such as Steve Jobs at Apple.

But all laws that protect workers could be said to weigh most heavily on small businesses, and courts should find it relatively easy to differentiate between frivolous cases and serious systematic abuse. In fact, the Healthy Workplace legislation is written to protect employers who take "reasonable care" to prevent or correct abuses. It requires plaintiffs to take advantage of in-house remedies. And it only covers repeated offenses, unless the abuse was "especially severe and egregious."

The potential problems an anti-bullying law might create for a business would be more than offset by the advantages of replacing bullies with managers who truly have the temperament to lead. "Hundreds of experiments," writes Robert Sutton, of the Stanford Graduate School of Business, show that demeaning bosses undermine employees' "decision-making skills, productivity, creativity and willingness to work harder and help coworkers."

Weinstein, Ailes and others in positions of power who stand accused of sexual harassment are not merely isolated bad apples who couldn't control their libidos. They are bullies, too, who learned they could get away with almost any behavior, as long as their operations generated enough cash.

Bullies affect all industries. Lawmakers can establish that intimidation and humiliation are off-limits in the workplace. They can give employees a better option than taking the abuse or leaving.

David Lieberman, an associate professor at the New School, is the former executive editor of Deadline.com, a media industry news site. He wrote this for the Los Angeles Times.

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Time flies when you're older

By RICHARD C. GROSS
THE BALTIMORE SUN

It took what felt like an agonizing hour or more to get through my 40-minute high school algebra class. And now, in my 70s, sitting in front of my desktop computer reading the morning newspapers for an hour feels as if only 30 minutes have gone by.

Time does seem to go faster as we get older, even if, in reality, it doesn't.

There are several theories about why this is so, including one that connects time's passage with our experiences. Time appears to crawl when we are young, life is fresh and we consistently absorb new information. As we get older, familiarity because of repetition appears to accelerate the ticking of the clock.

Other theories exist.

One noted last year by Christian Yates, a lecturer at the University of Bath, is that time speeds up as we age because as our metabolism slows it matches the deceleration of our heartbeat and breathing.

"Children's biological pacemakers beat more quickly, meaning that they experience more biological markers (heartbeats, breaths) in a fixed period of time, making it feel like more time has passed," Mr. Yates wrote in the online publication Quartz.

On that note, Ana Swanson, now a reporter for The New York Times, wrote in a Washington Post Wonkblog two years ago that "our sense of time is governed by biological processes that run the body.

"Researchers have long shown that we experience time as going by much slower when our body temperature is higher. So perhaps it's not a coincidence that children have a higher body temperature than adults, and also experience time more slowly."

She pointed to an intriguing theory, first posited by French philosopher Paul Janet in 1897; it refers to the proportion of your age compared with your life span as an explanation of why time seems to accelerate as we age.

Time stretches out for a 1 year old because one year represents 100 percent of the baby's life, explained Ms. Swanson. When you're 8, a year is 12.5 percent of your life. At 18, a year is 5.56 percent of your life. And so on, until at 98 you're at about 1 percent of your life.

"This idea has stunning implications," she wrote. "It means that parents actually see their children grow up much faster than children perceive themselves to be. ... It might also explain why kids on car trips are always asking that annoying question, 'Are we there yet?' A car journey actually feels longer to kids than it does to adults."

One thing we all know for sure is that time flies when we're having fun.

Which really means that "engaging in a novel exploit makes time appear to pass more quickly in the moment," wrote James M. Broadway, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Santa Barbara, and Brittney Sandoval, a graduate of the same school. Their essay appeared in the Scientific American Mind.

"But," they wrote, "if we remember that activity later on, it will seem to have lasted longer than more mundane experiences.

"The reason? Our brain encodes new experiences, but not familiar ones, into memory, and our retrospective judgment of time is based on how many new memories we create over a certain period. In other words, the more new memories we build on a weekend getaway, the longer that trip will seem in hindsight."

To return to Mr. Yates, the Bath lecturer, and the theory that the sense of time is related to the amount of information we absorb: The bombardment of President Trump's near-daily assaults on our senses may be applied.

"With lots of new stimuli, our brains take longer to process the information, so the period of time feels longer," Mr. Yates wrote. So "the more familiar we become with the day-to-day experiences of life, the faster time seems to run."

What's behind this is the neurotransmitter dopamine, whose levels drop from the age of 20 onward, "making time appear to run faster," Mr. Yates wrote.

The trick to slow time, then, is to keep having new experiences. Mr. Trump's verbal and Twitter outbursts can help.

Richard C. Gross, a reporter and editor for 40 years at home and abroad, is a former opinion page editor of The Baltimore Sun. *He wrote this for the* Sun.h

We need global, secular ethics

By TENZIN GYATSO, THE 14TH DALAI LAMA
Los Angeles Times

The 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, is the spiritual leader of Tibet and a Nobel laureate for peace. He wrote this op-ed with Franz Alt, a television journalist and bestselling author. This piece is adapted from their new book, An Appeal to the World: The Way to Peace in a Time of Division.

When the president of the United States says "America first," he is making his voters happy. I can understand that. But from a global perspective, this statement isn't relevant. Everything is interconnected today.

The new reality is that everyone is interdependent with everyone else. The United States is a leading nation of the free world. For this reason, I call on its president to think more about global-level issues. There are no national boundaries for climate protection or the global economy. No religious boundaries, either. The time has come to understand that we are the same human beings on this planet. Whether we want to or not, we must coexist.

History tells us that when people pursue only their own national interests, there is strife and war. This is shortsighted and narrow-minded. It is also unrealistic and outdated. Living together as brothers and sisters is the only way to peace, compassion, mindfulness and more justice.

Religion can to a certain degree help to overcome division. But religion alone will not be enough. Global secular ethics are now more important than the classical religions. We need a global ethic that can accept both believers and nonbelievers, including atheists.

My wish is that, one day, formal education will pay attention to the education of the heart, teaching love, compassion, justice, forgiveness, mindfulness, tolerance and peace. This education is necessary, from kindergarten to secondary schools and universities. I mean social, emotional and ethical learning. We need a worldwide initiative for educating heart and mind in this modern age.

At present our educational systems are oriented mainly toward material values and training one's understanding. But reality teaches us that we do not come to reason through understanding alone. We should place greater emphasis on inner values.

Intolerance leads to hatred and division. Our children should grow up with the idea that dialogue, not violence, is the best and most practical way to solve conflicts. The young generations have a great responsibility to ensure that the world becomes a more peaceful place for all. But this can become reality only if we educate, not just the brain, but also the heart. The educational systems of the future should place greater emphasis on strengthening human abilities, such as warm-heartedness, a sense of oneness, humanity and love.

I see with ever greater clarity that our spiritual well-being depends not on religion, but on our innate human nature _ our affinity for goodness, compassion and caring for others. Regardless of whether we belong to a religion, we all have a fundamental and profoundly human wellspring of ethics within ourselves. We need to nurture that shared ethical basis.

Ethics, as opposed to religion, are grounded in human nature. Through ethics, we can work on preserving creation. Empathy is the basis of human coexistence. It is my belief that human development relies on cooperation, not competition. Science tells us this.

We must learn that humanity is one big family. We are all brothers and sisters: physically, mentally and emotionally. But we are still focusing far too much on our differences instead of our commonalities. After all, every one of us is born the same way and dies the same way.

Moment of reckoning for swinish behavior is here

By REX HUPPKE
Chicago Tribune

Rex Huppke is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune*. Readers may email him at rhuppke@chicagotribune.com.*

I believe many things these days, chief among them the fact that we're in a moment of reckoning for men who for too long have held the levers of power and assumed that gave them the right to be awful.

I believe we need more women in charge, and fast. Men have had their chance to run things for ... well, for forever, and if the present waves of revelations about sexual harassment and sexual assault by powerful men show us anything, it's that men have royally screwed things up.

I believe Minnesota Democratic Sen. Al Franken, who on Thursday was accused of groping a woman and kissing her without her consent, should step down, even though he apologized and encouraged an ethics investigation into his own behavior.

I believe Roy Moore, the Alabama judge facing numerous accusations of sexual misconduct against girls in their teens while he was in his 30s, should leave the race for U.S. Senate immediately.

I believe there should be a full investigation into the allegations of sexual misconduct against President Donald Trump, even though voters overlooked those allegations and elected him.

I believe each of those cases, and myriad others surfacing now, should be looked at individually, with no bad action by one man being used to negate the bad action of another.

As the photo of Franken smirking as he reaches to grab the breasts of a sleeping woman went viral Thursday, many appropriately condemned him. And many who did that, myself included, were swiftly hit with excuses about how Moore's alleged actions against teens are far worse than the accusation against Franken, or how allegations against Trump are more serious than Franken's case because Trump is president.

I believe that's a bad way to look at things. Condemning Franken isn't excusing anyone else. We shouldn't be measuring acts of harassment or assault by volume or severity and then letting lesser cases slide. Bad is bad. One doesn't negate the other, or excuse the other, and letting that happen is a disservice to any of the women whose lives were damaged.

I believe no fewer than 20 men will email me to say, "Didn't hear anything from you when Bill Clinton was president!!" To which I will respond: That's because I was in my early 20s and not a journalist.

It was also a different time, and sex scandals were treated differently. That doesn't make Clinton's actions any less reprehensible, but arguing that his treatment then doesn't measure up to the treatment of men caught up in the current wave of allegations is pointless. And dumb. And again, one man's horrid behavior doesn't make any other man's horrid behavior acceptable. Ever.

I believe the problem we have in this country with men who have power sexually harassing or sexually assaulting women has nothing to do with politics or ideology or religion. It has to do with male dominance and entitlement.

And I believe these revelations of swinish male behavior, revelations that will undoubtedly continue, signal one thing: Lascivious behavior stemming from male dominance and entitlement is no longer going to be ignored or begrudgingly accepted.

I believe that's a good thing.

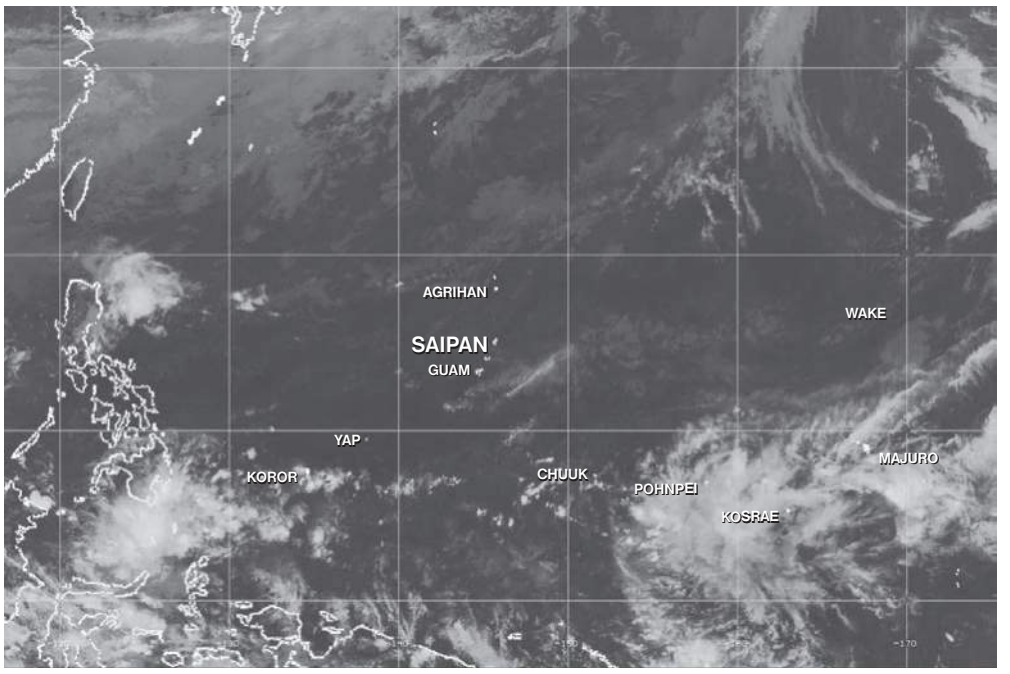
And I believe we need more women in positions of power to make sure it happens. Fast.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Partly cloudy in the morning then becoming mostly cloudy. Isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:15 AM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No significant changes were made to the forecast as the dry trade wind pattern will continue for this week. The guidance still suggests an increase in clouds around Tuesday or Tuesday night with a potential for thunderstorms, though not a high one, around the midweek period. It could end up that Tuesday is cloudier though the slightly better rain chance is Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Cloudy	66° / 57°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 23°
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	73° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°
London	Cloudy	57° / 54°
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	84° / 61°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 77°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	90° / 63°
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 69°
New York	Sunny	59° / 50°
Osaka	Rain	61° / 50°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	52° / 43°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	57° / 36°
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 48°
Salem	Cloudy	64° / 48°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	52° / 25°
Tokyo	Showers	55° / 46°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	60° / 47°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:13 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.19
10:06 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.85
3:48 PM	LOW TIDE	1.14
8:26 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:21 AM	5:43 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Thursday	6:22 AM	5:43 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:43 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:20 am	7:57 pm	-
Wednesday	9:08 am	8:45 pm	-
Thursday	9:56 am	9:33 pm	-
Friday	10:41 am	10:23 pm	-
Saturday	11:26 am	11:12 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 6, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:15pm	7:05pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	2, 3, 4
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
TW308	2:35am	6:20am	6, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:30am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:00am	10:25am	1
JD396	4:50pm	8:15pm	4

SAIPAN-NANJING (NKG)

XP889	4:45pm	10:30pm	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	2:00am	5:00am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:00pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	1, 2, 3
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	8:05pm	1:35am+1	5, 6
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:10am	3:30pm	4
JD395	10:05pm	5:30am+1	7

NANJING (NKG)-SAIPAN

XP888	9:35pm	4:00am+1	1, 4, 6

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:30pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:20pm	12:30am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express, XP XTRA Airways; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Nov. 25 is 'Small Business Saturday'

A number of promotional items have been received at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza and will be distributed to member businesses.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Saipan Young Professionals committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce is teaming up with the CNMI Small Business Development Center under the Department of Commerce to celebrate Small Business Saturday on Nov. 25.

The event was started by American Express in 2010, and is celebrated on the Saturday after Thanksgiving and occurs this year on Nov. 25. The members of the Saipan Young Professionals and the CNMI SBDC would be highlighting small businesses in the island community.

Small Business Saturday is one day each year that is specifically set aside to support small businesses across the United States.

The goal is to remind everyone that each purchase plays a key role in helping small businesses and encourages everyone to get out and shop and dine at local establishments.

"We celebrate the small businesses that make our island community unique. We encourage you to shop and dine at your favorite local locations. Come out to join Small Business Saturday with us," said Commerce Secretary Mark O. Rabauliman.

SYP chair Beau Tomokane is challenging SYP members and all members of the community to Shop Small, to snap a picture, and to share it using #ShopSmall and #SYP to celebrate and show support for small businesses.

A limited number of promotional items have been received at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office on the third floor of Marianas Business Plaza and will be distributed first to member businesses who have generously supported the Saipan Young Professionals program. Additional items will be available to any small business by visiting the Chamber office (while supplies last). Show your love for #SHOPSMALL.

The SYP, an official committee of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is a group of young professionals. If you are interested in joining the SYP committee or for more information, contact (670) 234-7150 or email administrator@saipanchamber.com. ***(PR)***

Tamilyog Trail is site of next Yap hiking challenge

COLONIA, Yap—A Yap Island-Strong Challenge Hike sponsored by Yap's Non-Communicable Disease Program will take place on the historic Tamilyog Trail on Saturday, Dec. 16, in conjunction with the annual FSM National Non-communicable Disease Summit being held in Colonia on Dec. 14-16. The hike is open to conference attendees and the general public.

"'Partnership' is the theme of our summit this year," said Dr. Aileen Tareg, program coordinator of Yap's NCD program, "and it's also a great theme for this year's challenge hike when everyone in Yap will come together to enjoy nature and exercise in the spirit of good health."

Registration will begin at 7am in Dachngar in front of the old Black Micro Corp. barracks. From there, buses will take participants to the start of the hike in Kanif Village where the hike will begin at 7:30am. Free T-shirts will be given to participants on a first-come, first-served basis at registration and everyone will be given the chance to win raffle prizes at the end of the hike. Hikers are strongly advised to wear sturdy, slip-resistant footwear. Water will be provided.

The Tamilyog Trail is named after the stone platform on the trail with views of Yap's southwest coast. Long ago, watchmen were stationed there to watch for war canoes and alert the villagers. The platform also provided access for gardeners and connected villages on Yap's west coast with allied villages on the east coast. Today, residents and visitors alike walk the trail to enjoy the nature preserve and the ancient stone paths that were restored as a living classroom, thanks to the efforts of students, villagers and the U.S. Park Service Historical Preservation Office and Seacology. ***(PR)***

Yang Zou sentenced to 97 months in ice case

Yang Zou, 38, from Susupe, has been sentenced in the U.S. District Court to a 97-month term of imprisonment for possession with intent to distribute methamphetamine.

The court also ordered Zou to serve four years of supervised release following his term of imprisonment.

In addition, defendants convicted of a federal drug offense may no longer qualify for certain federal benefits.

On April 15, 2016, Zou was approached by enforcement agents of the Commonwealth Casino Commission at the Best Sunshine Live Casino. Agents wanted to question him about his chip activity. Zou immediately asked to use the restroom and, once inside a stall, placed a cigarette box containing methamphetamine into a wastebasket. The drugs were discovered by a Best Sunshine bathroom attendant soon afterwards and eventually turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration. Subsequent testing showed the box contained 38.6 grams of methamphetamine with a 97 percent purity level.

On Dec. 2, 2016, Zou was indicted on a charge of possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance (methamphetamine). A jury found him guilty on April 7, 2017, after a one-day trial.

The investigation was conducted by the Drug Enforcement Administration, with the assistance and cooperation of the Commonwealth Casino Commission. The case was prosecuted by Garth Backe, assistant U.S. attorney for the District of the NMI. ***(USAO)***

NMPASI
NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) is soliciting proposals for the financial and compliance audit for fiscal year ending **September 30, 2017**. NMPASI is designated, federally funded protection and advocacy system for persons with disabilities in the CNMI. NMPASI uses a variety of individual and systems advocacy approaches to protect people's rights, including legal and administrative remedies, legislative, policy change and trainings. Proposals for the financial and compliance audit shall be submitted to NMPASI, P.O. Box 503529, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than December 04, 2017. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

1. Generally Accepted Auditing Standards;
2. OMB Circular A-133; and
3. Compliance with the general Requirements Applicable to Federal Financial Assistance Program.

Award will be based on specific factor such as prior experience, technical competence, ability to meet the deadline and price in this order. The contract for this audit will be awarded no later than **December 11, 2017**, and a final audit report shall be completed by March 16, 2018. A list of specific audit requirements and Agency's profile are available at NMPASI office, Gualo Rai. Any questions regarding this matter can be addressed to Mr. James Rayphand, Executive Director at tel 235-7273

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT
Christina Padock Higgins
Also known as "Kris"
December 25, 1982 – November 16, 2017
In her new life she now joins her:
Father: † Berman P. Higgins
Grandparents: † Pehmen Higgins
† Mickelina Higgins
† Sammy Padock
† Marcelina Padock
Aunt: † Mickely Ringlen
Uncle: † Jahno Padock
Cousin: † Ohmen Ricky Higgins
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Mother: Marcelly P. Higgins
Children: Mathen Pehmen Higgins
Amaleah Higgins Reyes
Berlianna P. Higgins
Danica H. Taitingfong
Danea H. Taitingfong
Sisters: Bermihna Higgins &
Leeroy Villagomez (6 kids)
Berliann Higgins &
Kapus Jaydee Diopulos
Berlyne & Ehmes Ehmes
Mercy & Charles Aiseam (3 kids)
Brother: Berman Higgins Jr. & Issa Rios
She will also be remembered by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nephews, nieces, and friends.
On Wednesday, November 22, 2017, her remains will be escorted from the CHCC morgue to the CHCC Chapel from 6:00 a.m. and continued viewing and prayers until the memorial service at 11:30 a.m. Burial service will be at 1:00 p.m. at Tanapag cemetery. Late lunch will be served at her mother's residence in As Lito.
Your presence and prayers are greatly appreciated.
Marcelly Padock Higgins & Children

CNMI Republican Party

Torres-Palacios 2018

Thank you to our family, friends and supporters who joined us to announce the team that will lead the CNMI toward progress in 2018. On behalf of Arnold I. Palacios, myself, and all our family, we ask for your support as we work toward bringing an even brighter future to our islands. — Ralph DLG. Torres

REAL ACTION, THAT'S PROGRESS.

ONE COMMONWEALTH

Paid for by Friends of Ralph and Arnold

Business

Mixed signals sent on fate of tax bill's health provision

WASHINGTON (AP)—Two of President Donald Trump's leading economic advisers sent mixed signals Sunday on the fate of a health care provision in the Senate version of a $1.5 trillion measure to overhaul business and personal income taxes that is expected to be voted on after Thanksgiving.

The provision to repeal a requirement that everyone in the U.S. have insurance has emerged as a major sticking point for Republican Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, who has said that issue should be dealt with separately from the push by Trump and fellow Republicans to overhaul the tax code.

Collins' vote is crucial in a chamber where Republicans hold a slim 52-48 edge.

Sen. Ron Johnson, R-Wis., has already declared his opposition to the bill, saying last week that it doesn't cut business taxes enough for partnerships and corporations. GOP Sens. Bob Corker of Tennessee, John McCain and Jeff Flake of Arizona, and Rand Paul of Kentucky also have concerns about the bill.

Republicans cannot afford to lose more than two senators on the final vote, which would allow Vice President Mike Pence to cast a tie-breaking 51st vote in his capacity as president of the Senate. Democrats are not expected to support the bill, as was the case when the House passed its version last week.

AP

In this Thursday, July 20, 2017, file photo, Budget Director Mick Mulvaney gestures as he speaks during the daily press briefing at the White House in Washington.

Asked whether the health care provision will be removed to keep Republicans on board, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin indicated that the current plan is to keep the provision in the bill. The provision is not in the House version of the legislation.

"The president thinks we should get rid of it. I think we should get rid of it," Mnuchin said. "It's an unfair tax on poor people. To think that you put a penalty on people who can't afford to buy medical policies, it's just fundamentally unfair."

He added: "But we're going to work with the Senate as we go through this."

Budget director Mick Mulvaney said the White House is open to scrapping the provision, which would repeal a key component of the Affordable Care Act health care law enacted by President Barack Obama. Trump has pressed for the provision to be added to the bill, partly to show progress on undoing the health care law. Congress fell short during previous attempts earlier this year to repeal the overall health care law.

"I don't think anybody doubts where the White House is on repealing and replacing Obamacare. We absolutely want to do it," Mulvaney said. "If we can repeal part of Obamacare as part of a tax bill and have a tax bill that is still a good tax bill that can pass, that's great.

"If it becomes an impediment to getting the best tax bill we can, then we're OK with taking it out," Mulvaney added.

Legislative director Marc Short said the White House "is very comfortable with the House bill," which does not include what's known as the "individual mandate." But Short said the White House views the individual mandate as a tax and "we like the fact that the Senate has included it in its bill."

At issue is a provision to repeal the requirement that everyone in the U.S. have health insurance. Eliminating the so-called individual mandate under "Obamacare" would add an estimated $338 billion in revenue over 10 years that the Senate tax-writers used for additional tax cuts.

European cities battle fiercely for top agencies leaving UK

BRUSSELS (AP)—Brexit is still well over a year away but two European cities on Monday will already be celebrating Britain's departure from the European Union.

Two major EU agencies now in London — the European Medicines Agency and the European Banking Authority — must move to a new EU city because Britain is leaving the bloc. The two prizes are being hotly fought over by most of the EU's other 27 nations.

Despite all the rigid rules and conditions the bloc imposed to try to make it a fair, objective decision, the process has turned into a deeply political beauty contest — part Olympic host city bidding, part Eurovision Song Contest.

It will culminate in a secret vote Monday at EU headquarters in Brussels that some say could be tainted by vote trading.

The move involves tens of millions in annual funding, about 1,000 top jobs with many more indirectly linked, prestige around the world and plenty of bragging rights for whichever leader can bring home the agencies.

"I will throw my full weight behind this," French President Emmanuel Macron said when he visited Lille, which is seeking to host the EMA once Britain leaves in the EU in March 2019. "Now is the final rush."

At an EU summit Friday in Goteborg, Sweden, leaders were lobbying each other to get support for their bids.

The EMA is responsible for the scientific evaluation, supervision and safety monitoring of medicines in the EU. It has around 890 staff and hosts more than 500 scientific meetings every year, attracting about 36,000 experts.

The EBA, which has around 180 staff, monitors the regulation and supervision of Europe's banking sector.

With bids coming in from everywhere—from the newest member states to the EU's founding nations—who gets what agency will also give an indication of EU's future outlook.

The EU was created as club of six founding nations some 60 years ago, so it's logical that a great many key EU institutions are still in nations like Germany, France and Belgium. But as the bloc kept expanded east and south into the 21st century, these new member states see a prime opportunity now to claim one of these cherished EU headquarters, which cover everything from food safety to judicial cooperation to fisheries policy.

Romania and Bulgaria were the last to join the EU in 2007 and have no headquarters. Both now want the EMA—as does the tiny island nation of Malta.

"We deserve this. Because as we all know, Romania is an EU member with rights and obligations equal with all the rest of the member states," said Rodica Nassar of Romania's health care ministry.

But personnel at the EMA and EBA are highly skilled professionals, and many could be reluctant to move their careers and families from London to less prestigious locations.

"You have to imagine, for example, for the banking authority, which relies on basically 200 very high-level experts in banking regulatory matters to move to another place," said Karel Lannoo of the CEPS think tank. "First of all, to motivate these people to move elsewhere. And then if you don't manage to motivate these people, to find competent experts in another city."

As the vote nears, Milan and Bratislava are the favorites to win the EMA, with Frankfurt, and perhaps Dublin, leading the way for the EBA.

HR departments aren't all unhelpful

Q: Although I usually agree with your advice, I'm skeptical about your suggestion that employees take their problems to human resources. After serving as an expert witness in employment cases for twenty years, I have concluded that HR departments are simply not very helpful.

Based on the legal depositions I have seen, most HR managers are either poorly trained or lack the courage to challenge management decisions. Some are merely paper-pushers who had personnel duties tacked on to their regular jobs. Others automatically align with management regardless of the circumstances.

Because these people don't seem willing or able to provide sound guidance, my recommendation would be that employees avoid them at all costs. What do you think about this?

A: Like any profession, human resources has both screw-ups and superstars, with many levels of ability in between. Unfortunately, your immersion in the legal system has probably exposed you to an unrepresentative sample at the lower end, since bad decisions are more likely to be litigated.

At their best, HR professionals carefully evaluate issues based on laws, policies, organizational goals, and sound management practices. They respect confidentiality, share information appropriately, look for workable compromises and encourage positive relationships.

They are also able to balance the interests of managers and staff, while helping each group understand the other's perspective. Conversely, those who are spineless management lackeys or knee-jerk employee advocates can't be effective because they will never be trusted by the other side.

Considering all this, I typically advise people to contact human resources if the HR manager is known to be helpful and trustworthy. During employment litigation, those are the ones you are less likely to meet.

Q: About 18 months ago, I was heavily recruited by one of my company's competitors. When I mentioned this to my boss, I explained that I would prefer to stay if certain changes could be made to my job. Both he and his manager agreed to my proposal, so I declined the other offer.

Unfortunately, management has failed to follow through with their commitment, even though I provided several reminders. Now another competitor is recruiting me, but I would still rather stay here. However, I don't know if the changes I want will ever occur. What should I do?

A: According to a wise old saying, the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. Therefore, you can reasonably assume that your bosses will continue to avoid any modifications which they have previously refused to make. Of course, you can always try again, using the most recent job offer as leverage.

If you have specific wishes, like higher pay or a new title, you just need to become a better negotiator. Instead of accepting vague assurances, ask for a written agreement with a clear deadline. But if your requests are more ambiguous—for example, having greater autonomy or less pressure—compliance will be hard to enforce unless you have clearly defined action steps.

Either way, however, there is always a chance that management will disappoint you again. So in making this decision, you should weigh the competitor's offer against your current working conditions.

YOUR OFFICE COACH

By MARIE G. MCINTYRE
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Marie G. McIntyre is a workplace coach and the author of Secrets to Winning at Office Politics*. Send in questions and get free coaching tips at http://www.yourofficecoach.com, or follow her on Twitter @ officecoach.*

Nation

Trump era sparks new debate about nuclear war authority

WASHINGTON (AP)—It's hard to overstate how thoroughly the U.S. military has prepared for doomsday—the day America gets into a nuclear shooting war.

No detail seems to have been overlooked. There's even a designated "safe escape" door at the nuclear-warfighting headquarters near Omaha, Nebraska, through which the four-star commander would rush to a getaway plane moments before the first bomb hit.

Procedures are in place for ensuring U.S. nuclear weapons are ready for a presidential launch order in response to—or in anticipation of—a nuclear attack by North Korea or anyone else. There are backup procedures and backups for the backups.

And yet fundamental aspects of this nightmare sequence remain a mystery.

For example, what would happen if an American president ordered a nuclear strike, for whatever reason, and the four-star general at Strategic Command balked or refused, believing it to be illegal?

Robert Kehler, a retired general who once led that command, was asked this at a congressional hearing last week. His response: "You'd be in a very interesting constitutional situation."

By interesting, he seemed to mean puzzling.

Brian McKeon, a senior policy adviser in the Pentagon during the Obama administration, said a president's first recourse would be to tell the defense secretary to order the reluctant commander to execute the launch order.

"And then, if the commander still resisted," McKeon said as rubbed his chin, "you either get a new secretary of defense or get a new commander." The implication is that one way or another, the commander in chief would not be thwarted.

AP

General C. Robert Kehler, right, USAF (Ret.) former Commander United States Strategic Command, testifies before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee hearing on North Korea on Capitol Hill in Washington, Tuesday, Nov. 14, 2017.

The current head of Strategic Command, Gen. John Hyten, said Saturday at the Halifax International Security Forum in Canada that he would refuse a launch order from a president if he believed that order to be illegal. Hyten also predicted that the president would then ask him for options that Hyten judged to be legal.

Bruce Blair, a former nuclear missile launch officer and co-founder of the Global Zero group that advocates eliminating nuclear weapons, said the Kehler scenario misses a more important point: The Strategic Command chief might, in effect, be bypassed by the president.

A president can transmit his nuclear attack order directly to a Pentagon war room, Blair said. From there it would go to the men and women who would turn the launch keys.

The renewed attention on these questions reflects unease—justified or not—about President Donald Trump's temperament and whether he would act impulsively in a crisis.

This past week's Senate hearing was the first in Congress on presidential authority to use nuclear weapons since 1976, when a Democratic congressman from New York, Richard L. Ottinger, pushed for the U.S. to declare it would never initiate a nuclear war. Ottinger said he wanted to "eliminate the prospect that human ignorance and potential human failure in the use of nuclear materials, especially nuclear weapons, will lead to the destruction of civilization."

Forty-one years later, the U.S. hasn't ruled out first-strike nuclear options and is unlikely to do so during Trump's tenure. This troubles experts who worry about a president with the sole - some say unchecked—authority to initiate nuclear war.

"We are concerned that the president of the United States is so unstable, is so volatile, has a decision-making process that is so quixotic, that he might order a nuclear weapons strike that is wildly out of step with U.S. national security interests," said Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said at the outset of last week's hearing.

The committee chairman, Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., said he was not targeting Trump. But he, too, has publicly questioned whether Trump's aggressive rhetoric toward North Korea and other countries could lead the U.S. into a world war. In the end, Corker's hearing produced little impetus for legislation to alter the presidential authorities.

ACROSS THE NATION

Border agent dies after being injured in Texas

VAN HORN, Texas (AP)—Authorities are searching Texas' Big Bend area for potential suspects and witnesses after a U.S. Customs and Border Protection agent was fatally injured responding to activity there. Border Patrol spokesmen said they could not provide any details Sunday on what caused the agent's injuries or what led to them. Spokesman Carlos Diaz said the FBI has taken over the investigation. Another spokesman, Douglas Mosier, said Agent Rogelio Martinez, 36, and his partner were transported to a local hospital, where Martinez died. Martinez's partner is in serious condition. His name wasn't released. Martinez had been a border agent since August 2013 and was from El Paso. President Donald Trump commented about the incident on Twitter Sunday night amid a series of unrelated tweets.

Police: 9-year-old girl used to smuggle drugs into prison

NEWPORT, Vt. (AP)—Police say a 9-year-old girl was used to smuggle drugs into a Vermont prison. Vermont State Police say one of three people who've been charged showed the girl how to slip drugs enclosed in cellophane wrap to an inmate during visitation on Sept. 10 at the Northern State Correctional Facility in Newport. The Caledonian-Record reports that Newport resident Sarah Watson pleaded guilty Tuesday to charges including drug possession and delinquency of a minor. Authorities say inmate Chad Paquette was the recipient, and he pleaded guilty to drug possession. A state police affidavit indicates Paquette swallowed a baggie that was later recovered. It contained strips of an opioid, Buprenorphine. Officials say inmate Jason Watson orchestrated the deal. He has pleaded not guilty to conspiracy.

Official says Trump doesn't know who to believe about Moore

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump doesn't know who to believe about sexual misconduct allegations involving Roy Moore, but isn't campaigning for his party's Senate candidate in Alabama because of "discomfort" with the claims made by a number of women, aides said Sunday.

One Republican senator urged Alabama voters to reject Moore in the Dec. 12 election even if that could mean ceding the seat to a Democrat and narrowing the GOP's 52-48 Senate edge. A second GOP lawmaker suggested there was "a strong possibility" that a write-in candidate - "a proven conservative"—could win, though no name was mentioned and Moore has rejected the idea of quitting.

Moore, a former state Supreme Court justice twice removed from office, has denied the accusations that have surfaced only recently about incidents said to have occurred decades ago, and pledged to remain in the race.

The special election will determine who fills the remainder of Attorney General Jeff Sessions' term, until January 2020.

White House aides said Trump had "serious concerns" about Moore, but that Alabamans should decide Moore's fate against Democrat Doug Jones, a former prosecutor.

"I think that's probably the most common sense way to look at it. He doesn't know who to believe. I think a lot of folks don't," budget director Mick Mulvaney said.

Legislative director Marc Short said that "obviously if he did not believe that the women's accusations were credible, he would be down campaigning for Roy Moore."

Still, Short said Trump also had questions about allegations that were "38 years old" and virtually unprovable. "Roy Moore has been a public servant for decades in Alabama. He has run multiple times. The people of Alabama know best what to do and the right decision to make here," he said.

Before the allegations emerged, Trump had backed current GOP Sen. Luther Strange in the Sept. 26 primary to determine Sessions' successor and campaigned in the state, a Republican stronghold.

After Moore's victory, Trump made clear he would back the anti-establishment candidate enthusiastically promoted by former White House chief strategist Stephen K. Bannon. But since the allegations aired, the White House has said Moore should drop out if they were true.

Short, pressed repeatedly about whether Trump still supported Moore, said: "I don't think you have seen him issue an endorsement. You have not seen him issue robocalls." Short added, "I think you can infer by the fact that he has not gone down to support Roy Moore his discomfort in doing so."

Moore has forcefully denied the charges as "unsubstantiated" and "fake" even as more women have come forward to make complaints of sexual improprieties. Two women by name have said Moore molested them in the 1970s when one was 14 and the other 16 and he was a local district attorney in his 30s, and three others said he pursued romantic relationships with them around the same time.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., and House Speaker Paul Ryan, R-Wis., are among the many national Republicans who have urged Moore to step aside. Sessions told Congress last week he has "no reason to doubt" the women and didn't rule out a Justice Department probe of the allegations.

"I hope that the voters of Alabama choose not to elect him," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine. "I don't know Doug Jones at all, but I've never supported Roy Moore. And I hope that he does not end up being in the United States Senate."

Asia

US troops in Japan are banned from drinking after fatal crash

AP
A Japanese driver's damaged vehicle is placed at a police station in Naha, Okinawa, southern Japan Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017.

TOKYO (AP)—U.S. military personnel in Okinawa have been restricted to base and banned from drinking alcohol after a Marine was arrested over a crash that killed a Japanese man.

Police on the southern Japanese island arrested 21-year-old Nicholas James-McLean late Sunday on suspicion of negligent driving resulting in injury or death and driving under the influence of alcohol, said Kazuhiko Miyagi of the Okinawa police.

He confirmed that a breath test indicated James-McLean had an alcohol level that was three times the legal limit. The Marine was slightly injured, Miyagi said.

Hidemasa Taira, 61, who was driving a small truck, died in the Sunday morning crash in Naha, the main city in Okinawa.

He was making a turn when his vehicle was hit by James-McLean's truck, which was coming from the opposite direction, according to Japanese media. The reports cited witnesses as saying the Japanese driver had the right of way when the crash occurred and the Marine may have driven through a red light.

The incident could fuel opposition to the U.S. military presence on Okinawa, where about 25,000 American troops are stationed and where local residents have expressed concerns in the past about military crime and crowding on the island.

The U.S. military said "alcohol may have been a factor" in the crash.

Buying and drinking alcohol was banned for U.S. military personnel all over Japan. As well, those on Okinawa were restricted to base and their residences, until further notice.

The military said commanders across Japan will immediately lead mandatory training on responsible alcohol use and acceptable behavior.

"When our service members fail to live up to the high standards we set for them, it damages the bonds between bases and local communities and makes it harder for us to accomplish our mission," U.S. Forces, Japan, said in a statement posted on its website.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Truck and minibus collide head-on in Pakistan, killing 17

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police say that a head-on collision between a mini-bus and a truck has killed at least 17 people and injured six in the country's south. Police officer Rab Nawaz says the loaded truck crashed into the van near the town of Khairpur on Monday morning. He says those injured are in critical condition and that the death toll could increase further. The police also say the passengers included women and children. The cause of the crash was not immediately known. An investigation is underway. Road accidents are common in Pakistan because of poor road conditions and disregard for safety standards and traffic rules by drivers.

Car plunges into gorge killing 5 in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistani police say a car carrying a family has fallen off a mountainous road into a deep gorge killing five and wounding one in the country's northwest. Police officer Qasim Jadoon said Sunday that three young girls were among the dead along with their father and grandfather. He said driver of the car was being treated for critical injuries. Jadoon said the incident took place some 160 kilometers (100 miles) north of the garrison city of Abbottabad. Villagers and rescue workers retrieved the bodies after an hours-long effort. Such accidents often take place in Pakistan because of poor road conditions and disregard for safety standards and traffic rules by motorists.

India passenger train hits and kills 2 Asian elephants

GAUHATI, India (AP)—Two endangered Asian elephants were hit and killed Sunday by a passenger train near the city of Gauhati in northeastern India. Wildlife warden Prodipta Baruah said the elephants were part of a herd of about 15 that had ventured into the area in search of food before dawn. Baruah said the other elephants crossed the track and the final two were attempting to cross when the train struck them. Wildlife workers and veterinarians arrived to perform autopsies on the elephants before burying them in nearby pits. There was no major damage to the train and no passengers were injured. Gauhati is in Assam state, which is home to several thousand wild Asian elephants. The animals are revered in Asia but are considered endangered due to habitat loss and poaching. Roaming elephants in the region are struck by trains fairly regularly.

World

Mugabe defies ouster

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe defied calls to quit Sunday, saying he will preside over a ruling party congress in December in an announcement that could trigger impeachment proceedings this week and more protests demanding his ouster.

In a televised address, the 93-year-old Mugabe acknowledged what he said were "a whole range of concerns" of Zimbabweans about the chaotic state of the government and the economy, but he stopped short of what many people in the southern African nation were hoping for - a statement that he was resigning after nearly four decades in power.

The once-formidable Mugabe is now a virtually powerless, isolated figure, making his continued incumbency all the more unusual and extending Zimbabwe's political limbo. He is largely confined to his private home by the military. The ruling party has fired him from his leadership post, and huge crowds poured into the streets of Harare, the capital, on Saturday to demand that he leave office.

Yet the president sought to project authority in his speech, which he delivered after shaking hands with security force commanders, one of whom leaned over a couple of times to help Mugabe find his place on the page he was reading.

The Central Committee of the ruling ZANU-PF party voted to dismiss Mugabe as party leader at a meeting earlier Sunday and said impeachment proceedings would begin if he does not resign by noon Monday. Mugabe made no reference to the party moves against him, instead saying he would play a leading role in a party congress planned for Dec. 12-17.

"The congress is due in a few weeks from now," Mugabe said. "I will preside over its processes, which must not be prepossessed by any acts calculated to undermine it or compromise the outcomes in the eyes of the public."

Mugabe has discussed his possible resignation on two occasions with military commanders after they effectively took over the country on Tuesday. The commanders were troubled by his firing of his longtime deputy and the positioning of unpopular first lady Grace Mugabe to succeed him. He referred to the military's concerns about the state of Zimbabwe, where the economy has deteriorated amid factional battles within the ruling party.

"Whatever the pros and cons of the way they went about registering those concerns, I, as the president of Zimbabwe, as their commander in chief, do acknowledge the issues they have drawn my attention to, and do believe that these were raised in the spirit of honesty and out of deep and patriotic concern for the stability of our nation and for the welfare of our people," Mugabe said.

The deputy whom Mugabe fired, former Vice President Emmerson Mnangagwa, is positioned to become Zimbabwe's next leader after the party committee made him its nominee to take over from Mugabe, who has ruled since independence from white minority rule in 1980.

Committee members stood, cheered and sang after Mugabe was removed from his post as party leader. Meeting chair Obert Mpofu referred to him as "outgoing president" and called it a "sad day" for Mugabe after his decades in power.

"He has been our leader for a long time, and we have all learned a great deal from him," Mpofu said. But Mugabe, he said, "surrounded himself with a wicked cabal."

German government talks collapse; Merkel seeks to reassure

BERLIN (AP)—German Chancellor Angela Merkel pledged early Monday to maintain stability after the Free Democratic Party pulled out of talks on forming a new government with her conservative bloc and the left-leaning Greens, raising the possibility of new elections.

Merkel told reporters that the parties had been close to reaching a consensus on how to proceed with formal coalition talks but that the Free Democrats decided abruptly to pull out just before midnight Sunday—a move she said she respected, but found "regrettable."

She said she would consult with Germany's president later in the day to brief him on the negotiations and discuss what comes next.

Without bringing the Free Democrats back to the table, Merkel will be forced to try to continue her current governing coalition with the Social Democrats, although that center-left party has said it will not do so, or she could try to form a minority government, which was seen as unlikely. Otherwise Germany will have to hold new elections.

"It is at least a day of deep reflection on how to go forward in Germany," Merkel said. "But I will do everything possible to ensure that this country will be well led through these difficult weeks."

Merkel's conservative Christian Democrats and sister Bavaria-only Christian Social Union, the pro-business Free Democrats and the left-leaning Greens had already blown past Merkel's own deadline of Thursday to agree on a basis for opening formal negotiations on a coalition of all four parties, a configuration that has never been tried at a national level in Germany.

Key sticking points were the issues of migration and climate change.

Among other things the Greens were pushing for Germany to end its use of coal and combustion engines by 2030, though they had signaled they were open to some compromise.

The other parties are also committed to reducing carbon emissions, but Merkel's bloc hadn't put a date on when to phase out coal. The Free Democrats also expressed concern about what the moves would mean for jobs and Germany's economic competitiveness.

On migration, the Christian Social Union wanted an annual cap on refugees, while the Greens sought to allow more categories of recent migrants to bring their closest relatives to join them.

Merkel said that "we thought we were on a path where we could have reached agreement," when that the Free Democrats decided to pull out.

Free Democrat leader Christian Lindner told reporters that his party decided to withdraw rather than further compromise its principles and sign on to policies the party was not convinced of.

Overdrive

2017 Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid is the best family car on the market

By ROBERT DUFFER
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Drop one kid at one school, then drop another kid at other school. Go to work meeting. Stop for coffee. Hit the store. Go home. Leave home. Finish the errands. Pick up one kid, drop off at practice. Pick up other kid, take to friend's house. Forget something; go get it. Pick up one kid; pick up the other kid. Forget dinner; go out to eat.

Total mileage: 20 miles.

Total time in car: living the dream.

This day in the life of a parent like me in a family car like the Chrysler Pacifica minivan could have one less to-do: the twice-a-week stop at the gas station.

One less to-do is no small ado, and this is the promise of the plug-in hybrid family vehicle: to make life easier, better.

The plug-in variant of the Pacifica, last year's winning successor to the Town and Country, means that most driving can be sourced from a plug in the garage. And when the family needs to ship the eldest kid to college, or road trip to that statewide performance, or simply visit the far-flung family, the adapted 3.6-liter V-6 engine provides plenty of power as it normally would to travel up to 566 miles.

The only compromise with the PHEV is there are no available second-row stow-and-go seats because the 16-kWh battery pack is in the floor.

The only criticism is the gear dial is too close to the other dials on the center console.

Around town, the Pacifica gets 33 miles of all-electric range in the quietest ride ever to be had in the minivan. This too is no small thing. The transition to engine power, under heavy throttle when fleeing the strictures of the subdivision, say, or cruising on the highway is hardly noticeable. The energy display on the wide and clear touch screen is the only clear giveaway, and that display also shows energy captured from regenerative braking and energy used from the climate system to better predict how much electric power will be used on a certain trip.

NUTS & BOLTS

Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid Platinum

- Vehicle type: Plug-in hybrid minivan
- Base price: $44,995
- As tested: $46,790
- EPA MPG: 84 MPGe, or 33-miles electric range
- Engine type: 3.6-liter V-6
- Motor: 6.6 kW dual motor electrically variable transmission
- Parting shot: Much ado about something.

On one commute, starting with 33 miles of electric range, we covered 15 miles on the highway and 10 on the main streets with all the cozy heated elements. The Pacifica PHEV returned 58.6 mpg, and the gas engine was only used on 1.5 miles.

On the return commute, starting with no charge, we averaged 26.9 mpg; nearly 7 miles were on battery power due to regenerative braking.

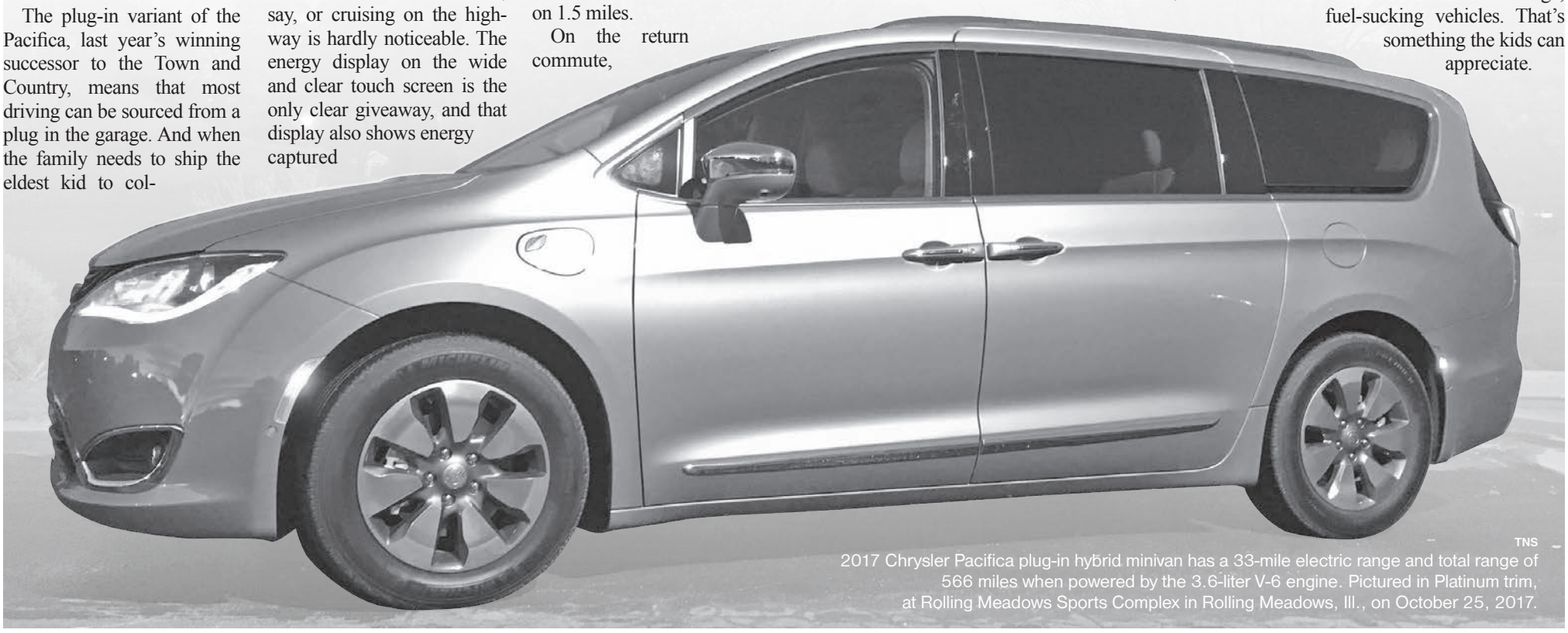
Let's say that the most fuel-efficient minivan ever — probably the most fuel-efficient seven-seat personal vehicle — doesn't matter much because gas prices are low, or the 31 percent reduction in its environmental impact compared to the outgoing Town & Country doesn't matter much because planet shmanet, then consider the personal cost of ownership.

There are so many factors in calculating per charge usage, but a conservative per mile estimate at the average rate of electricity in the U.S. at 12 cents per kwh, is 6 cents per electric mile; the average per mile cost of a gallon of gas at a national average of $2.51 a gallon at an average fuel economy of 25.3 mpg, is 10 cents. That average mpg is what only the most fuel-efficient three-row vehicles get, such as the Toyota Highlander Hybrid.

There's more to the dollars and sense equation. As of now, the Pacifica PHEV qualifies for the full $7,500 federal tax credit, so the two top trims in either Premium or Platinum will total under $40,000. Trimmed out, the Honda Odyssey Elite and Toyota Sienna Limited cost around $47,000. The top-of-the-line Platinum tester, which comes with advanced driver assist systems such as adaptive cruise and park assist, as well as seatback video screens, is $44,995 before the federal tax credit, and before whatever state incentives there may be.

Am I gushing? I should have better self control. Does it impugn my character that I like minivans? Fine, I'll wave my dork flag on the besieged principles of logic and economics.

Due to its electrified powertrain and ability to sit seven comfortably, the Pacifica PHEV is not only without peer as the best family car on the market, it is an imminent forecast of the type of powertrains to slake our thirst for large, fuel-sucking vehicles. That's something the kids can appreciate.



TNS

2017 Chrysler Pacifica plug-in hybrid minivan has a 33-mile electric range and total range of 566 miles when powered by the 3.6-liter V-6 engine. Pictured in Platinum trim, at Rolling Meadows Sports Complex in Rolling Meadows, Ill., on October 25, 2017.

Motormouth: No stop-start kill switch in Cruze

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Q: We are writing to you with a suggestion and a good question about it. Suggestion: Like many new vehicles, our Chevy Cruze has the stop/start feature. We understand its purpose; but it is most annoying in many ways. We found an easy workaround that negates this annoying feature; and it may be worth sharing the idea with others. At startup, we put the shift lever in L gear and then paddle shift to L6. The Cruze goes through all normal gears when driving; but the engine does not shut down at stops. We are annoyed no longer. And, there is no doubt that the battery and starter motor will live a longer life using this L6 option. My question: Does driving in L6 around town and/or on the highway hurt the transmission is any way?

-- Brent, Barb & Micah E.

A: Ugh! No stop-start disable switch? Most cars and light trucks employing stop-start technology have them, and there's a lot of folks who are grateful for the button, even though it must be pressed each time the vehicle is driven. Stopping the engine while the vehicle is at rest and quickly restarting it as one's foot comes off the brake pedal got its start with hybrid vehicles and European gas and diesel vehicles where their emissions-mileage certification drive cycle has about twice as much idle time as we do in the States. Stop-start is a fairly inexpensive means of achieving perhaps a 5 to 10 percent fuel-economy gain and reducing emissions on a wide scale. While hybrids do much better on fuel economy and emissions, they're only a small fraction of the vehicle fleet, and stop-start is now found on most new vehicles sold.

A typical gas engine vehicle will wait till the engine and catalytic converter are at operating temperature and the battery is well charged before employing the feature. There are additional hurdles to overcome. An electric pump maintains automatic transmission fluid pressure, and air conditioning and heating, to some degree, will require a restart within a couple of minutes to function well.

Done well, typically using a hybrid's motor-generator, operation is seamless and quiet, and the huge hybrid battery and electric A/C compressor allows long engine-off periods. Others use a beefed-up starter and heavy-duty AGM battery, and sometimes things can get a little jerky. Your Cruze gets higher marks than many for smooth starts, but I can appreciate the desire to cancel operation, at least during certain driving situations.

Hacking the system using the shifter as you have will cause no issues, as, with the exception of second gear, manual shifting basically sets the upper-gear limit in operation. Selecting the top gear will simply allow normal automatic shifting functions. This would be a great time to ask folks for their input on stop-start favorites and dogs! I'll compile and forward the results.

Life & Style

Musicians unite at AMAs in wake of tumultuous year

By MESFIN FEKADU
AP MUSIC WRITER

Pink, left, and Kelly Clarkson perform "Everybody Hurts" at the American Music Awards at the Microsoft Theater on Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, in Los Angeles. AP

The 2017 American Music Awards marked a night of unison, positive vibes and American pride as musicians spoke about coming together in a year dominated by natural disasters, violence and divisive politics.

Kelly Clarkson and Pink kicked off the three-hour show Sunday with a performance honoring those affected by tragic events of the year, from hurricanes to hate crimes. First responders stood behind Jamie Foxx, who gave a heartfelt speech before the pop stars sang R.E.M.'s "Everybody Hurts."

This year "was a year that tested our faith. In these moments of crisis, heroes emerged," he said. "As this year comes to a close, we look forward to 2018 with hope ... together we can unite as a people and a nation."

"Black-ish" actress Tracee Ellis Ross said the show—taking place in the wake of multiple sexual allegations against powerful men in Hollywood, the media, business and politics—would honor women who "own our experiences, our bodies and our lives."

"This is the country I know, which is of powerful women, talking about our women, talking about empowering our LGBTQ youth," said Dan Reynolds of the band Imagine Dragons, which won favorite pop/rock duo or group. "May we continue to progress as a nation as one of love and equality. No divide. There's been way too much of that this last year."

Before her performance, Demi Lovato said, "There's so much hate in this world. We have to rise above and never say sorry for who you are." And while Lady Gaga performed "The Cure," a song about healing, she told the audience: "Who's gonna be there? We got to be there for each other America. Hands up!"

Gaga sang from her concert in Washington, D.C. Later in the show, she was in tears when she was named favorite female pop/rock artist.

"If you feel different ... don't you dare give up on who you are," she said.

Bruno Mars was also not in attendance at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles. Mars, who on tour in South America, picked up seven awards, including artist of the year.

"I wish I could be partying with y'all," said Mars, who appeared in a video.

Iconic entertainer Diana Ross was honored with Lifetime Achievement Award, and she received touching video messages from Barack and Michelle Obama, and Taylor Swift.

The 73-year-old was cheerful and energetic as she ran through well-known songs onstage like a veteran, singing "I'm Coming Out" and "Ain't No Mountain High Enough," among other hits, with her signature big hair. Foxx, Berry Gordy, Smokey Robinson and others sang along, while some of Ross' grandchildren danced onstage near the end of the performance.

"This is all about love," said Ross, who had several members of her family standing behind her. "This says it all. This is my family."

Pink was also impressive as she continued to show her athleticism and acrobatic skills during a second performance at the AMAs, performing from the side of a high-rise building alongside aerial dancers. The K-pop group BTS, who have a feverish and fanatic social media following, earned the night's loudest applause after they performed their song, "DNA."

Another highlight of the night came when Linkin Park—whose lead singer Chester Bennington killed himself earlier this year—won favorite alternative rock artist.

"We want to dedicate this award to him, to his memory, to his talent, to his sense of humor, to his joy," band member Mike Shinoda said onstage. "I want you guys to take a moment to appreciate what you've got and make Chester proud."

Selena Gomez, who had a kidney transplant this year due to her struggle with lupus, sang "Wolves" while lying on the floor in a short nightgown. Her knees, hands and forehead covered in faux bruises and blood.

Christina Aguilera was shaky when she sang a medley of Whitney Houston's songs to honor the 25th anniversary of Houston's film, "The Bodyguard." The band Portugal. The Man, who sang their pop hit "Feel It Still," opened their performance with the words: "No computers up here, just live instruments." And rapper Macklemore gave his grandmother a birthday shout out at the end of his performance.

Like Mars, Keith Urban also won multiple awards, including favorite country album, country male artist and country song.

WINNERS' LIST

A list of the winners at the 2017 American Music Awards, held Sunday night at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles.

- Artist of the year: Bruno Mars.
- New artist of the year: Niall Horan.
- Collaboration of the year: Luis Fonsi, Daddy Yankee and Justin Bieber, "Despacito."
- Video of the year: Bruno Mars, "That's What I Like."
- Tour of the year: Coldplay.
- Favorite pop/rock male artist: Bruno Mars.
- Favorite pop/rock female artist: Lady Gaga.
- Favorite pop/rock duo or group: Imagine Dragons.
- Favorite country male artist: Keith Urban.
- Favorite country female artist: Carrie Underwood.
- Favorite country duo or group: Little Big Town.
- Favorite rap/hip-hop artist: Drake.
- Favorite soul/R&B male artist: Bruno Mars.
- Favorite soul/R&B female artist: Beyonce.
- Favorite alternative rock artist: Linkin Park.
- Favorite adult contemporary artist: Shawn Mendes.
- Favorite Latin artist: Shakira.
- Favorite contemporary inspirational artist: Lauren Daigle.
- Favorite electronic dance music artist: The Chainsmokers.
- Top soundtrack: "Moana."
- Lifetime Achievement Award: Diana Ross.

Charles Manson, whose cult slayings horrified world, dies

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Charles Manson, the hippie cult leader who became the hypnotic-eyed face of evil across America after orchestrating the gruesome murders of pregnant actress Sharon Tate and six others in Los Angeles during the summer of 1969, died Sunday after nearly a half-century in prison. He was 83.

Manson, whose name to this day is synonymous with unspeakable violence and madness, died at 8:13 p.m. of natural causes at a Kern County hospital, according to a California Department of Corrections statement.

Michele Hanisee, president of the Association of Deputy District Attorneys, reacted to the death by quoting the late Vincent Bugliosi, the Los Angeles prosecutor who put Manson behind bars. Bugliosi said: "Manson was an evil, sophisticated con man with twisted and warped moral values."

"Today, Manson's victims are the ones who should be remembered and mourned on the occasion of his death," Hanisee said.

California Corrections spokeswoman Vicky Waters said an autopsy will be performed but what comes after that is unclear. Prison officials previously said Manson had no known next of kin and state law says that if no relative or legal representative surfaces within 10 days, then it's up to the department to determine whether the body is cremated or buried.

It's not known if Manson requested funeral services of any sort. It's also unclear what happens to his property, which is said to include artwork and at least two guitars. State law says the department must maintain his property for up to a year in anticipation there might be legal battles over who can make a legitimate claim to it.

A petty criminal who had been in and out of jail since childhood, the charismatic, guru-like Manson surrounded himself in the 1960s with runaways and other lost souls and then sent his disciples to butcher some of L.A.'s rich and famous in what prosecutors said was a bid to trigger a race war—an idea he got from a twisted reading of the Beatles song "Helter Skelter."

The slayings horrified the world and, together with the deadly violence that erupted later in 1969 during a Rolling Stones concert at California's Altamont Speedway, exposed the dangerous, drugged-out underside of the counterculture movement and seemed to mark the death of the era of peace and love.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against him, Manson maintained during his tumultuous trial in 1970 that he was innocent and that society itself was guilty.

"These children that come at you with knives, they are your children. You taught them; I didn't teach them. I just tried to help them stand up," he said in a courtroom soliloquy.

Model accuses Russell Simmons of sexual misconduct

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Model Keri Claussen Khalighi has come forward to accuse Def Jam Records mogul Russell Simmons of sexual misconduct in 1991 when she was 17 years old.

In a report Sunday in the Los Angeles Times, Khalighi says that Simmons coerced her to perform a sex act and later penetrated her without her consent in his New York apartment. She said the film producer and director Brett Ratner, who has also been accused by multiple women of sexual harassment, was present.

Khalighi said she asked Ratner, then a music video director and Simmons protege, for help.

"I'll never forget the look on his face," she told the Times. "In that moment, the realization fell on me that they were in it together."

Simmons, now 60, has denied the allegations in a statement, which he also posted to his Twitter account. He says everything that occurred between himself and Khalighi was completely consensual and with her "full participation."

"I'm deeply saddened and truly shocked to learn of Keri's assertions as to what happened over the course of that weekend," Simmons said in the statement.

He also detailed his own support of the #MeToo movement and the "brave men and women who have spoken out over the past month."

Simmons' statement, issued through his spokesman Eric W. Rose, also included three witness statements in his defense. Two were anonymous and one was from Simmons' former assistant Anthony McNair, who said that he did not notice any visible signs of distress from Khalighi during that time.

The Times report also includes four additional allegations against Ratner, who was previously facing at least six allegations of misconduct from women including actress Olivia Munn. His attorney, Martin Singer, has denied all allegations.

Among the new accusers are, Tanya Reid, who was working as a hotel employee in Miami 1994 when she was 18. She says that Ratner, who had asked her if she wanted to appear in a music video he was shooting, exposed himself to her and pressured her into sex acts.

Simmons

Representatives for Ratner did not immediately respond to requests for comment Sunday.

The article also describes a "boy's club" culture among Ratner and Simmons' circle of friends, which includes disgraced writer-director James Toback, who has been accused of sexual misconduct by hundreds of women, Roman Polanski and producer Robert Evans. Ratner's home in Beverly Hills, Hilhaven Lodge, was a frequent gathering spot and the alleged site of some of the improprieties.

Khalighi told the Times that she was motivated to come forward after reading the Nov. 1 report about Ratner. She says she called Simmons first and "urged him to disclose his past behavior" during a 27-minute conversation in which she says he did not deny her claims. She also says she spoke to Ratner about the matter 15 years ago.

"I'm coming out because what I've experienced privately is not matching what they are saying publicly and hypocrisy to me is repugnant," Khalighi said. "It's time for the truth to come out."

AP
This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows Gal Gadot, from left, Ben Affleck and Ezra Miller in a scene from "Justice League."

'Justice League' disappoints in US with $96 million opening

LOS ANGELES (AP)— Only in the modern era of superhero films could a $96 million opening weekend be considered anything less than impressive. But that's the situation Warner Bros. and DC's "Justice League" find themselves in.

The big budget superhero mashup came in well under expectations, which had pegged it for a $110 million launch in North American theaters. If studio estimates hold, it will also have the dubious distinction of being the lowest-opening film in the DC Extended Universe.

It has been a rollercoaster for the DC Universe since "Man of Steel" kicked off the comic book franchise in 2013, with films battling high expectations, critical reviews and the impossible standard of competing against the Marvel Cinematic Universe. "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" may have been a critical dud in early 2016, but it still opened to $166 million and went on to net $873.3 million worldwide by the end of its run.

One film that did have a heroic showing this weekend is "Wonder," an adaptation of R.J. Palacio's novel about a child with a facial deformity that stars Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson and Jacob Tremblay. The family-friendly drama opened in second place with $27.1 million against a $20 million production budget and could be on its way to becoming a sleeper hit. Lionsgate distributed the film, which was financed and produced by Participant Media.

Disney and Marvel's "Thor: Ragnarok" fell to third place.

1. **"Justice League,"** $96 million ($185.5 million international).
2. **"Wonder,"** $27.1 million ($310,000 international).
3. **"Thor: Ragnarok,"** $21.8 million ($24.1 million international).
4. **"Daddy's Home 2,"** $14.8 million.
5. **"Murder on the Orient Express,"** $13.8 million ($20.7 million international).
6. **"The Star,"** $10 million.
7. **"A Bad Moms Christmas,"** $6.9 million ($5.1 million international).
8. **"Lady Bird,"** $2.5 million.
9. **"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri,"** $1.1 million.
10. **"Jigsaw,"** $1.1 million ($4.1 million international).

New American wants to get U.S. social customs right

DEAR ABBY: I went through a divorce recently and have already found a woman I love. I have children—three boys and a daughter—I love very much. I'm currently paying child support to my ex for my 15-year-old daughter. The boys are grown and on their own.

I'm a first-generation American from Latin America, and I have a question regarding holding hands with my daughter in public. I spoke with my mother about it and she told me she hugged, kissed (pecks on the cheek) and held hands with her father until the time she moved away from home. My significant other says holding hands with my daughter is not appropriate in public.

As a father, I want my daughter to feel she can hold my hand if she's inclined. I will not discourage her because I love her. I understand that one day she may no longer want to do that, and I would accept her wish. Because I live in the United States, I need to know if the custom of daughters showing affection for their fathers is acceptable here in the U.S.

DIVORCED DAD IN COLUMBUS

DEAR DIVORCED DAD: I'm glad you asked. There is absolutely NOTHING wrong with a girl holding her father's hand or demonstrating affection by hugging or kissing him on the cheek!

Your new love interest may be jealous of the relationship you have with your daughter. And if that's the case, it is a red warning flag. Explain to your girlfriend that this is how people act in the culture you come from.

And one more thought: You mentioned that you are recently divorced. Please take PLENTY of time before you plunge into another marriage—with her or anyone else.

DEAR ABBY: After 10 years and good relations with my prior hairdresser, I switched to a new beautician. The shop is an hour closer to my home and less expensive. Both stylists do a great job, and I'm always pleased.

On my most recent visit to my new hairdresser, she was putting color on her first client of the day. I waited patiently for a half-hour past my scheduled appointment time. When she was done with that client, she asked me if I was in a hurry. Trying to be polite, I said, "No, not really." (I'm retired.) So she went into the back room and then outside with coffee and cigarettes in hand for a break. I was dumbfounded.

After waiting 15 more minutes, she finally took me. How should I handle this the next time I see her? Should I continue to see her? Should I speak up or just chalk it up that she was having a bad day? Your opinion, please.

HURRY UP AND WAIT IN WEST VIRGINIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

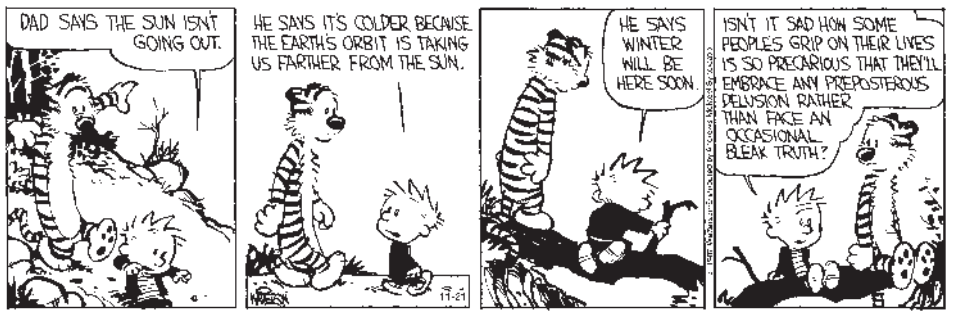
DEAR HURRY UP AND WAIT: An experienced hairdresser usually puts color on her first client and then, while the color is processing, starts her next one. Your mistake was not having told the stylist how you felt about being kept waiting for half an hour. Also, when asked if you would mind if she kept you waiting even longer, instead of being "polite" and fuming, you should have been honest. Clear the air at your next appointment.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

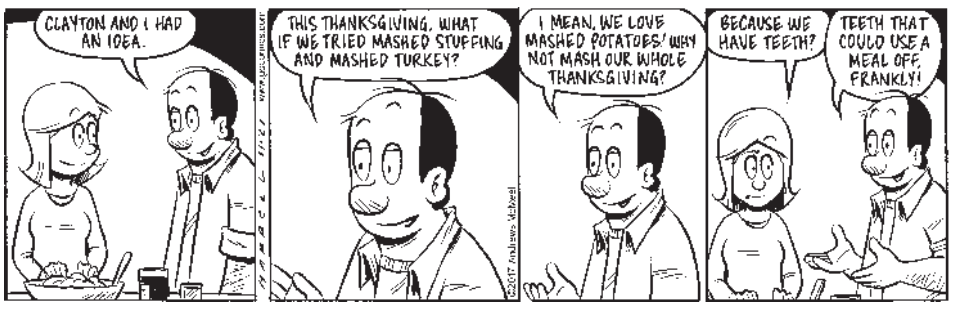

DAD SAYS THE SUN ISN'T GOING OUT.
HE SAYS IT'S COLDER BECAUSE THE EARTH'S ORBIT IS TAKING US FARTHER FROM THE SUN.
HE SAYS WINTER WILL BE HERE SOON.
ISN'T IT SAD HOW SOME PEOPLE'S GRIP ON THEIR LIVES IS SO PRECARIOUS THAT THEY'LL EMBRACE ANY PREPOSTEROUS DELUSION RATHER THAN FACE AN OCCASIONAL BLEAK TRUTH?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


CLAYTON AND I HAD AN IDEA.
THIS THANKSGIVING, WHAT IF WE TRIED MASHED STUFFING AND MASHED TURKEY?
I MEAN, WE LOVE MASHED POTATOES! WHY NOT MASH OUR WHOLE THANKSGIVING?
BECAUSE WE HAVE TEETH?
TEETH THAT COULD USE A MEAL OFF, FRANKLY!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

THINK ABOUT IT... THE MEATLOAF, LASAGNA, AND RUMP ROAST WERE ALL HORRIBLE.
WHERE ARE YOU GOING WITH THIS?
I SAY WE PUSH IT OFF A CLIFF AND COLLECT ON THE INSURANCE MONEY.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Handful of hair
5 Debtor's letters
8 Karate blow
12 Hawaiian island
13 Scratch
14 Saintly ring
15 Comic-strip magician
17 Thus
18 Prohibit
19 Tooth-paste target
21 Leaked slowly
24 "Hey, sailor!"
25 Do in
26 Tchai-kovsky ballet
30 PC linking system
31 Glisten-ed
32 Felon's flight
33 Pass
35 Thaw
36 Aspiration
37 Caravan stops
38 Mother of Minos
41 "Awe-some!"
42 Slightly
43 Photos of hunky guys
48 Empty truck's weight
49 Grazing land
50 "So be it"
51 Females
52 Con-clude
53 Leaf

DOWN

1 "Let me think ..."
2 Motorist's org.
3 Cloister resident
4 Bean variety
5 Big-screen format
6 Sturdy tree
7 Bowling ball material
8 Ms. Ladd
9 Male red deer
10 Gymnast Korbut
11 Indigent
16 Free (of)
20 Top-notch
21 Capital on a fjord
22 Norwe-gian saint
23 Billy of "Titanic"
24 Heard the alarm clock
26 Like modeling clay
27 Pub orders
28 Hardy cabbage
29 911 re-sponders
31 Halt
34 Colossus of —
35 Wild and crazy
37 Klutz
38 Diner sign
39 Six-sided state
40 Excep-tional
41 Peruse
44 Poetic dusk
45 "I — Rock"
46 Beer barrel
47 Away from WSW

Solution time: 22 mins.

W	A	Y		I	M	A	G	E		A	R	F
P	I	E		N	I	K	O	N		-	O	U
A	L	A	B	A	M	A	N	S		A	M	S
			C	R	O		G	U	M	B	O	S
H	I	A	T	U	S		S	E	R	A		
E	S	L		T	A	P		D	I	S	C	O
L	E	A	R		S	E	A		S	T	U	N
D	F	N	I	M		A	I	I		F	K	F
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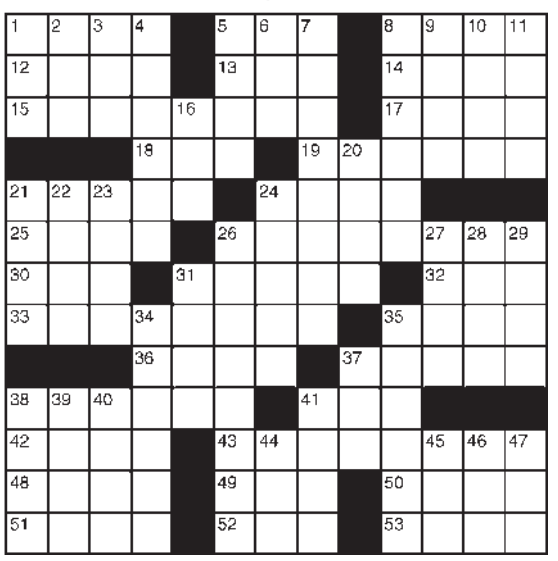
M	O	R	E	N	C		E	A	R			
I	R	K		A	_	A	R	M	I	S	T	S
L	E			M	E	D	I	A		I	I	I
D	O	N		I	D	E	A	S		R	E	X

Yesterday's answer 11-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Carly Rae Jepsen, 32; Jena Malone, 33; Michael Strahan, 46; Goldie Hawn, 72.

Happy Birthday: The past will be prominent in decisions you make this year. Reconnect with old friends or colleagues and consider the ways you have been accustomed to doing things and how you can make progress using new technology in the future. Your willingness to try something new and combine it with your tried-and-true methods will prove to be valuable. Your numbers are 5, 17, 21, 26, 33, 44, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Your ability to pick up new skills and knowledge as you go will help you stay on top. Don't let emotional issues interfere with reaching your goals. Anger solves nothing, but intelligence and positive action will help you reach your destination. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Hang out, meet new people and visit places you've never been before. Business meetings and partnerships are favored, along with comforting decisions that make you feel more secure moving forward. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Someone will tempt you with an offer. Before you jump in, consider the costs involved and whether it's in your best interest. You are better off doing your own thing and bringing about changes that suit your current situation. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* It's OK to do things differently. Consider ways to keep the peace and follow your heart at the same time. Personal improvements, socializing and enjoying the youngsters in your life will bring you joy. Don't run from change -- welcome it. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Control your reactions and your desire to do something that is beyond your usual capabilities. Problems will occur if you aren't sensitive to the needs of those you love and care for. Think before you act. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Changes at home will be beneficial but unnerving. Acceptance will be in your best interest. The better prepared you are, the easier it will be to adapt to whatever unfolds. Don't reject a suggestion before you give it a chance. ✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Be careful how you deal with friends and relatives. If you say something insensitive, you will have trouble backtracking. Consider how to best handle sticky situations before you open your mouth. An unusual job opportunity looks promising. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Take a moment to use the knowledge you've gained and much will be accomplished. The changes that take place at home will develop in an unusual and unexpected manner. Romance is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* You'll have a hard time trying to find the right things to say to someone. Think hard before you reveal information that may be incriminating. Being a good listener can spare you grief and long-term regret. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* An emotional matter should be brought out into the open. Share your thoughts and feelings and make sure that whomever you are dealing with is on the same page as you. Don't let anyone disrupt your plans with last-minute alterations. Forge ahead. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Handle your money carefully. Emotional spending will not help you when the bills come in. Don't waste time on people who have nothing to offer in return. Secretive tendencies will lead to suspicion. Take care of your health. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* You'll have a unique idea to share. A gift, offering or gain looks promising. Have a plan in mind to ensure you aren't tempted by someone who is trying to cash in on your good fortune. Trust in yourself, not someone else. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are dedicated, strong-willed and courageous. You are creative and spontaneous.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	4	6			5	7		
				9				
		7	4		1	3		
		3	9		2	8		
	9			6			4	
		4	1		7	6		
		8	6		3	9		
				7				
	3	1				4	2	

Difficulty Level ★★ 11/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

7	2	1	6	9	3	5	4	8
3	6	8	7	5	4	2	9	1
5	4	9	1	2	8	7	3	6
6	7	4	2	3	9	8	1	5
2	8	3	5	1	7	4	6	9
1	9	5	8	4	6	3	2	7
8	1	7	3	6	2	9	5	4
4	3	6	9	8	5	1	7	2
9	5	2	4	7	1	6	8	3

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

THINGS THAT FLICKER Solution: 8 letters

F	I	S	N	L	S	R	A	L	L	I	P	O	S	T
I	L	H	T	R	E	S	A	L	A	P	T	O	P	S
R	L	A	E	N	U	A	N	T	C	I	T	Y	I	S
E	U	D	S	A	A	B	D	I	M	M	E	R	L	E
P	M	O	P	H	D	D	R	A	D	A	R	E	T	L
L	I	W	A	C	Ⓛ	L	N	N	E	W	X	T	H	D
A	N	S	R	R	Ⓐ	I	I	E	R	I	G	T	G	N
C	A	O	K	O	Ⓜ	M	G	G	P	C	A	A	I	A
E	T	L	L	T	Ⓟ	N	E	H	H	K	Z	B	S	C
N	I	A	E	M	I	N	C	N	T	T	E	U	E	N
O	O	R	O	K	E	T	E	I	I	A	S	L	M	P
C	N	U	N	R	I	O	K	S	M	C	B	B	A	A
A	S	I	G	W	N	I	R	E	M	M	I	L	G	I
E	L	Y	S	C	O	N	C	E	S	C	R	E	E	N
B	L	A	Z	E	N	O	I	S	I	V	E	L	E	T

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Battery, Beacon, Beam, Blaze, Blinking, Bulb, Burn, Candles, Cinema, City, Dimmer, Energy, Fireplace, Flashlight, Games, Gaze, Glimmer, Headlights, Illuminations, Lamp, Laptops, Laser, Lips, Mind, Mouse, Neon, Paint, Pendants, Pillars, Pixels, Post, Radar, Sconce, Screen, Shadows, Sight, Solar, Sparkle, Switch, Tablet, Television, Tiki, Torch, Wick

Yesterday's Answer: Green

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SAIPAN HIGHER EDUCATION FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
Office of the Mayor
Municipality of Saipan

NOTICE OF REGULAR SHEFA BOARD MEETING

In accordance with 1 CMC § 9901 *et seq.*, as amended, the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance November 22nd, 2017 at 9:30 am at the Mayor of Saipan Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Ladera Center Building, Beach Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Roll Call
   2. Adoption of Agenda
   3. Adoption of Minutes from October 19th, 2017

II. **Public Comments**

III. **Reports**
   1. Administrator
   2. Chair
   3. COMMITTEES
      a. Committee on Awards
      b. Committee on Appeal/Deferments/Forbearance
      c. Committee on Policy and Procedures
      d. Committee on Program and Development
      e. Committee of Fiscal, Legislative and Community Affairs

IV. **Old Business**

V. **New Business**
   1. Fall 2017 Application Status

VI. **Executive Session – Appeals (closed)**

VII. **Misc.**

VIII. **Next Meeting**

IX. **Adjournment**

Note: Meeting may continue the following day should the need arise.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-DPS-021 (A) (B)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 5, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) TWIN ENGINES FOR THE TINIAN ZODIAC VESSEL (2-150 HP) (A) AND THE SAIPAN ZODIAC I VESSEL (2-90 HP) (B) FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, SAIPAN"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS, IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

/S/ ROBERT A. GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER, DPS

/S/ HERMAN SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP18-BECQ/DEQ-002

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 21, 2017 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"SEDIMENT SAMPLING AT 303(D) LISTED WATERSHED STREAM DISCHARGES IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE 2013 CNMI SURFACE WATER QUALITY MONITORING PLAN"

THE SCOPE OF WORK IS AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER **NOVEMBER 28, 2017** FROM BECQ/DEQ OFFICE OR BY E-MAIL REQUEST TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP CAN BE E-MAILED TO **rodneycamacho@becq.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, **DECEMBER 12, 2017**.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NOTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSAL SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR OR BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as $30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

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• 3-Liner	$15	$30
• 5-Liner	$24	$45

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Brady, Patriots dominate Raiders in Mexico City

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Tom Brady felt right at home in his first appearance in Mexico by throwing for 339 yards and three touchdowns, to the delight of an adoring crowd, in the New England Patriots' 33-8 victory over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday.

Brady completed his first 12 passes and picked apart Oakland's suspect defense to chants of "Brady! Brady!" from an amped-up crowd at Azteca Stadium. The large contingent of Patriots fans in the well-divided crowd for a Raiders "home" game had plenty to cheer about as New England (8-2) dominated from start to finish.

After winning their debut trip to Mexico City last year against Houston, the Raiders (4-6) were completely overmatched in their return. The offense failed to score until Derek Carr threw a TD pass to Amari Cooper in the fourth quarter with Oakland trailing by 30 points.

The defense got victimized by short passes by Brady and then beaten on a 64-yard TD to Brandin Cooks on the third play of the second half that gave New England a 24-0 lead.

AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady (12) passes against the Oakland Raiders during the first half of an NFL football game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, in Mexico City.

Eagles 37, Cowboys 9

In Arlington, Carson Wentz threw for two touchdowns and three 2-point conversions after Philadelphia lost kicker Jake Elliott to a head injury, and the Eagles all but wrapped up the NFC East with the victory over Dallas.

The Eagles (9-1) outscored the Cowboys 30-0 in the second half while extending their winning streak to eight games, their longest since 2003-04 and tied with New Orleans for the best current run in the NFL.

Philadelphia leads the second-place and defending division champion Cowboys (5-5) by four games with six to play after handing Dallas its worst home loss at 8-year-old AT&T Stadium.

Saints 34, Redskins 31, OT

In New Orleans, the Saints extended their winning streak to eight games with an unlikely comeback, erasing a 15-point deficit inside the final six minutes or regulation and kicking a short field goal in overtime to defeat Washington.

Mark Ingram capped a 131-yard rushing performance with gains of 20 and 31 yards on back-to-back carries in overtime to set up Wil Lutz's winning 28-yard kick.

Drew Brees passed for 385 yards and two touchdowns, going 11 of 11 for 164 yards and his only two touchdowns on New Orleans' final two possessions of regulation. His first TD went to tight end Josh Hill with 2:53 to go, and the last to Alvin Kamara with 1:05 left.

The Saints (8-2) set up their final drive by stopping Samaje Perine on third-and-1 at the two-minute warning when a first down would have allowed Washington (4-6) to run out the clock.

Giants 12, Chiefs 9, OT

In East Rutherford, Roger Lewis Jr. made a spectacular catch to set up the winning 23-yard yard goal by Aldrick Rosas in overtime and the Giants responded from weeks of adversity to beat the AFC West-leading Chiefs on a blustery, cold day.

The win snapped a three-game losing streak for the Giants (2-8) and sent the Chiefs (6-4) to their fourth loss in five games.

The winning kick came two plays after Lewis was yanked to the ground on a deep pass from Eli Manning, but still caught the ball while flat on his back for a 34-yard completion on a fourth-down heave. Had he not caught it, flags flew for pass interference.

It was an unexpected was for a team that came into the game in turmoil, with questions about the future of coach Ben McAdoo and many wondering whether the Giants had quit in one-sided losses to the Rams and then the winless 49ers in the past two weeks.

Vikings 24, Rams 7

In Minneapolis, Latavius Murray rushed for 95 yards and two touchdowns, Adam Thielen turned a short catch into a 65-yard score and the Vikings smothered the NFL's highest-scoring offense.

Case Keenum completed 27 of 38 passes for 280 yards and no turnovers against the team that benched him last season for No. 1 overall draft pick Jared Goff. He also guided the Vikings (8-2) to their sixth straight victory in a matchup of division leaders.

Minnesota's defense started the second half by forcing four punts in a row by the Rams (7-3), whose four-game winning streak in which they scored 144 points was finished in convincing fashion. The Rams led the league entering the weekend with a third-down conversion rate of 46.7 percent, but were just 3 for 11 against the Vikings.

The Los Angeles defense was trampled in the second half for 288 yards, and Keenum went without a sack for the sixth game this season. Thielen handed him the longest touchdown pass of his career by turning a simple curl route early in the fourth quarter into a game-breaking score after spinning past Rams cornerback Dominique Hatfield.

Ravens 23, Packers 0

In Green Bay, the Ravens forced five turnovers in their third shutout of the season. Baltimore last accomplished the feat when the Ray Lewis-led defense had four shutouts for the Super Bowl-winning team in 2000.

Jimmy Smith, Eric Weddle and Marlon Humphrey each picked off passes for Baltimore (5-5), which led the NFL in interceptions entering the weekend. But a problematic offense couldn't generate a touchdown drive until Joe Flacco's perfect deep ball to Mike Wallace over two defenders for a 13-point lead nearly two minutes into the third quarter. Flacco threw for 183 yards, going 22 of 28 with an interception.

His lone touchdown pass was still enough of a cushion against a Packers team struggling without two-time MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers, out with a broken collarbone.

Chargers 54, Bills 24

In Carlson, Casey Hayward made two of the Chargers' five interceptions during a horrific first half by Buffalo rookie quarterback Nathan Peterman, and Los Angeles cruised over the slumping Bills.

Korey Toomer returned Peterman's first interception 59 yards for a touchdown on Buffalo's opening drive, the rookie threw two more interceptions in the first quarter and two additional picks in the second.

Peterman was pulled from his first NFL start with a 37-7 halftime deficit after just 14 pass attempts for the Bills (5-5), who lost their third straight.

Buffalo benched Tyrod Taylor and promoted the fifth-round pick from Pitt earlier this week despite being in playoff position.

Bengals 20, Broncos 17

In Denver, Andy Dalton threw three touchdown passes in Cincinnati's win over the Broncos, their first win in Denver since 1975 when franchise founder Paul Brown was their head coach.

That snapped the Bengals' 10-game losing streak in Denver and sent the Broncos (3-7) to their sixth straight loss, their longest skid in 27 years.

Trailing by a field goal with 1:52 left, the Broncos went three-and-out with Brock Osweiler taking a sack and then firing incomplete to Emmanuel Sanders on fourth-and-4 from his 26.

Lions 27, Bears 24

In Chicago, Matthew Stafford threw for 299 yards and two touchdowns, Matt Prater kicked a 52-yard field goal with 1:35 remaining.

Detroit (6-4) took the lead after Tarik Cohen had tied it for Chicago (3-7) with a 15-yard touchdown run. The Lions escaped with their third straight win when the Bears' Connor Barth was wide right on a 46-yarder in the closing seconds.

Stafford completed 21 of 31 passes. Marvin Jones Jr. had four receptions for 85 yards and a TD.

DJ Hayden ran back a fumbled snap for a touchdown to give Detroit seven return TDs this season, tying a team record. And the Lions beat the Bears for the eighth time in nine games.

Jaguars 19, Browns 7

In Cleveland, Blake Bortles threw a touchdown pass and Jacksonville linebacker Telvin Smith recovered a fumble for a TD with 1:14 remaining as the Jaguars won their fourth straight and moved into sole possession of first place in the AFC South.

Jacksonville's top-ranked defense forced five turnovers, two in the final two minutes.

The Jaguars (7-3) built a 10-0 lead and turned things over to their "Sacksonville" defense. The Jaguars intercepted rookie DeShone Kizer twice, had five sacks and blanked the Browns (0-10) in the second half.

Cleveland's last hopes ended when Yannick Ngakoue sacked Kizer and knocked the ball into the end zone, where Smith recovered.

Buccaneers 30, Dolphins 20

In Miami Gardens, Ryan Fitzpatrick threw for 275 yards and two touchdowns, Patrick Murray kicked a 35-yard field goal with 4 seconds remaining and Tampa Bay snapped a six-game road slide by topping the penalty-prone Dolphins.

O.J. Howard and DeSean Jackson caught those scoring throws for the Buccaneers, who outscored Miami 17-0 in the second quarter.

They also stuffed three straight 1-yard-to-go runs by the Dolphins at the Tampa Bay 34 in the fourth quarter, forcing a turnover on downs on a day when Miami had more mistakes than points.

Texans 31, Cardinals 21

In Houston, rookie D'Onta Foreman ran for 65 yards and two fourth-quarter touchdowns before being carted off the field with an ankle injury to help the Houston Texans snap a three-game skid.

The Texans (4-6) went on top when Foreman scored his first career touchdown on a 3-yard run early in the fourth quarter. The Cardinals were stopped for a loss on a fourth-and-1 later in the fourth. Foreman dashed 34 yards on the next play to push the lead to 31-21 with about six minutes left.

Foreman was injured on the play, falling to the ground in the end zone. He was looked at on the field for a few minutes before he was helped to the cart and taken off the field as the crowd chanted: "Foreman, Foreman."

Lonzo's triple-double sends Lakers past Denver

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lonzo Ball's haircuts are headline news around LA and the NBA. His father already draws more attention than most politicians, and LaVar Ball is even currently engaged in a public argument with the president.

Through all of this extraordinary attention on a 20-year-old point guard and his family, Lonzo has managed to remain focused on his rookie season with the Los Angeles Lakers.

He broke through the distractions with another beautiful game against Denver.

Ball had his second career triple-double and Julius Randle scored 24 points in the Lakers' 127-109 victory over the short-handed Nuggets on Sunday night.

With 11 points, a career-high 16 rebounds and 11 assists, Ball reached the milestone at 20 years and 23 days—the exact age at which LeBron James became the youngest player to record his second triple-double in 2005.

Ball became the youngest player in NBA history with a first triple-double eight days earlier in a loss at Milwaukee.

"This one was a lot better," Ball said. "I actually like this one. Just keep building on it."

Ball and Magic Johnson are the only Lakers with multiple triple-doubles in their rookie seasons. Johnson had seven, and his new point guard has two in his first 17 games.

"You should always play better in front of your fans, so I'm just trying to put on a good show for them and win at the same time," Ball said.

Ball had another big game at another turbulent moment in his family life. With his father beefing with Donald Trump over the president's role in resolving brother LiAngelo's legal issues during a UCLA basketball trip to China, Lonzo Ball put together an outstanding floor game to boost the Lakers to just their second win in seven games.

"Never with a young man like this, his age, have I seen it," Lakers coach Luke Walton said of the circus surrounding Ball's every move.

Los Angeles Lakers guard Lonzo Ball, center, grabs a rebound against Denver Nuggets forwards Trey Lyles, left, and Juancho Hernangomez during the second half of an NBA basketball game Sunday, Nov. 19, 2017, in Los Angeles. The Lakers won, 127-109.

"I mean, he got a haircut and fielded three questions on game day about his haircut. One, it's impressive how he is able to maintain and handle it, and two, I think it's a little bit nuts. But that's the way it's going to be."

Brook Lopez scored 21 points and Jordan Clarkson added 18 for the Lakers, who surged to a 24-point lead in the first half and won easily.

Denver coach Mike Malone and top scorer Nikola Jokic were ejected in the second quarter after Malone stepped onto the court during play to argue a no-call on a play by Jokic around the basket. Malone furiously confronted referee Rodney Mott, who swiftly ejected the coach and his best player when Jokic joined in the argument.

"I'll be honest, I deserved to get tossed, but Nikola Jokic did nothing to warrant an ejection," Malone said. "That's something that we'll try to look into if we can."

Jamal Murray got a technical foul for gesturing at Mott after a no-call shortly after the two ejections. Two nights after Denver scored 146 points in a win over New Orleans, the Nuggets mustered just 48 points in the first half while committing 13 turnovers.

Ball's 16 rebounds are the most in the NBA by a rookie this season. Los Angeles had a season-high 36 assists.

Warriors 118, Nets 111

In New York, Stephen Curry had season highs with 39 points and 11 rebounds, and Golden State Warriors held on after he fouled out to beat Brooklyn.

A night after erasing a 22-point halftime deficit in Philadelphia, the Warriors built a 22-point cushion after two quarters behind 22 points from Curry. Playing without Kevin Durant, they led by 28 in the third quarter but Brooklyn cut it all the way to four after Curry picked up his sixth foul with three minutes remaining.

Klay Thompson then scored seven of his 23 points in the final two minutes.

Durant was out with a sprained left ankle, giving him extra rest before Golden State wraps up its four-game trip at Oklahoma City on Wednesday night in his former home arena. Omri Casspi started in his place and had 12 points and eight rebounds.

Allen Crabbe scored 25 points, and Spencer Dinwiddie had 21 points and eight assists for the Nets.

The Warriors trailed 74-52 at halftime in Philadelphia on Saturday before scoring 47 points in the third quarter and winning 124-116. Curry appeared determined to get Golden State going quickly Sunday, scoring 13 points while playing all 12 minutes in the first quarter.

Pacers 120, Heat 95

In Miami, Bojan Bogdanovic scored 26 points, Myles Turner added 25 and Indiana embarrassed Miami Heat in the second half.

Turner made 11 of 14 shots for the Pacers, who won their third straight game overall and got their first win in Miami since Nov. 12, 2014. Each of the last 11 regular-season games in the series were won by the home team, until the Pacers emphatically changed that in this one.

Victor Oladipo scored 15, Darren Collison had 12 points and 10 assists and Thaddeus Young added 12 for Indiana. The Pacers outscored Miami 69-40 in the game's final 25 minutes and shot 60 percent for the game.

Wayne Ellington scored 21 points, all of them coming on 3-pointers, for the Heat. Josh Richardson and Hassan Whiteside each scored 15 and James Johnson added 10 for the Heat.

Dion Waiters was scoreless for Miami, missing all 10 of his shots. Miami's starters were outscored by Indiana's 90-44.

Raptors 100, Wizards 91

In Toronto, DeMar DeRoan scored 33 points, C.J. Miles had 12 and Toronto beat Washington to avenge its only home loss of the season.

Kyle Lowry and Fred VanVleet each scored 10 points and Serge Ibaka had nine points and eight rebounds. Toronto won its season-high fourth straight and improved to 6-1 at home.

Wizards guard John Wall didn't play because of a sore left knee, but coach Scott Brooks said there's a "great chance" the four-time All-Star will return Monday night at Milwaukee.

Bradley Beal scored 27 points, and Marcin Gortat had 12 points and 12 rebounds for Washington. The Wizards lost their second straight following a season-best four-game winning streak.

Pistons 100, Timberwolves 97

In Minneapolis, Andre Drummond had 20 points and 16 rebounds, Tobias Harris and Avery Bradley added 18 points each and Detroit outlasted Minnesota.

Harris hit two free throws with 3.3 seconds remaining, and Jimmy Butler's last-second 3-point attempt rattled out to draw a loud groan from the crowd as the Pistons snapped their two-game skid and Minnesota's three-game streak.

Butler led the Wolves with 26 points and 10 rebounds, and Andrew Wiggins had 24.

Suns 113, Bulls 105

In Phoenix, T.J. Warren scored 27 points to lead six Phoenix players in double figures and the Suns handed Chicago its sixth loss in seven games.

Rookie Lauri Markkanen, the former University of Arizona standout, scored a career-best 26 points for the Bulls in a matchup of the NBA's two youngest teams.

Devin Booker and Mike James added 15 points apiece for Phoenix. Eight of James' points came in the final 10 minutes. Troy Daniels added 14 for the Suns, including four of seven 3s.

Giants make trade proposal for Marlins' Stanton

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton is one of the baseball market's big dominoes this winter and a trade of the Miami Marlins slugger is taking a step toward reality.

The San Francisco Giants have made a proposal to the Marlins for Stanton. The Marlins also expect to receive offers from the St. Louis Cardinals and Boston Red Sox, Rosenthal reports.

Miami is looking to shed payroll and Stanton, who hit 59 home runs and won the National League MVP this past season, is owed $295 million over the next 10 years.

Because of the 28-year-old's massive contract, it's likely an acquiring team will want the Marlins to be on the hook for some money.

Stanton, a native of Panorama City, Calif., has a full no-trade clause and can essentially control where he plays next. His contract features an opt-out following the 2020 season.

In New York, the Yankees acquired 17-year-old Dominican prospect Juan Then from the Seattle Mariners.

New York sent right-handed reliever Nick Rumbelow to Seattle for the right-hander Then and left-hander J.P. Sears.

Then was signed by Seattle last year at age 16 and went 2-2 with a 2.64 ERA in 13 starts with the Dominican Summer League Mariners in 2017.

Sears, 21, was drafted by Seattle in the 11th round this year and went 1-2 with a 0.65 ERA and three saves in 17 relief appearances for Single-A Everett and Clinton.

Rumbelow, 26, made 17 appearances for the Yankees in 2015, going 1-1 with a 4.02 ERA in 15 innings. In five minor league seasons, he's 14-8 with a 2.73 ERA and 29 saves in 126 relief appearances.

In Oakland, the Athletics have hired former San Francisco Giants star Matt Williams as their new third base coach.

The A's announced Friday that Williams will join manager Bob Melvin's staff. Melvin was a coach in Arizona for two seasons late in Williams' career with the Diamondbacks.

Williams played 17 years in the majors, beginning with the cross-bay Giants. He also played for Cleveland and Arizona, finishing his career with 378 homers, five All-Star appearances and four Gold Gloves at third base,

Williams then spent five years as a coach with the Diamondbacks before managing Washington for two seasons from 2014-15. He had a 179-145 record and won the NL Manager of the Year award his first season.

Japanese couple rules Rota Blue

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The husband-and-wife tandem of Masayuki and Hiromi Matsumaru ruled the men's and women's divisions of the 23rd Rota Blue Triathlon's long course.

The long course featured a shortened swim of 500 meters (from 1.9-kilometer), 90K bike, and 21K run around the pristine backdrop of the CNMI's southernmost island last Saturday. Race organizers decided to shorten the swim leg due to rough waters for the safety of all the participants from Japan, Korea, Saipan, and Rota.

Masayuki had split times of 7:07 in the swim, 2:18:15 in the bike, and 1:29:55 in the bike for a total of 3:55:17, giving him a 30-minute win over South Korea's Sung Jo Yoo's 4:54:24:46 (11:18, 2:29:28, 2:13:38). Another Japanese, Katsuhiko Hara, finished third overall with 15:55, 2:58:27, and 1:42:46 in the swim, bike, run legs for a combined time of 4:57:08.

Hiromi, meanwhile, bested two bets from South Korea to win the women's division. She logged a combined of 4:28:46 with a 10:01 swim and was a bit slow in the bike at 2:40:05, but made up for her lost time in the run after posting 1:38:40. South Koreans Yeojin Yang (13:55, 2:57:54, 2:04:13) and Eunna Kim (15:33, 3:07:21, 3:22:54) finished second and third with times of 5:16:02 and 5:39:43, respectively.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marianas Visitors Authority's Martin Dueñas, second left, joins one of the Rota Blue Triathlon winners, left, and Rota officials and volunteers for a group photo during the awards ceremony last Saturday.

Saipan's Manny Sitchon celebrates his finish. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsukasa Hirano and Keiki Nakakarumai made it another double celebration for Japan in the men's and women's short course—shortened swim from 1.5 kilometer to 500 meters, 40K bike, and 10K run.

Hirano defeated compatriots Hideya Miyazuka, who is one of the legendary triathletes in Japan, and Ken Takahasi. Hirano completed the swim in 6:14, the bike in 1:08:11, and the run in 43:13 for a total time of 1:57:38 or almost three minutes ahead of the 53-year-old Miyazuka's 2:00:36 (8:27, 1:08:10, and 43:59). Takahashi came in at third at 2:23:39 (10:50, 1:16:07, 56:42).

Nakakarumai logged times of 11:35, 1:25:36, and 54:12 in the swim-bike-run legs for a total of 2:31:23 to win by almost eight minutes against compatriot Ai Handa's 2:39:03 (12:39, 1:29:01, 57:23). Saipan's Heather Brook was the third overall female finisher at 2:39:58 (14:27, 1:33:51, 51:40).

VENDETTA

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finally end the exhausting match and bring their team to the playoffs.

Dexter Tenorio also helped Vendetta's cause, scoring the squad's last 6 markers in regulation, four of them came from the foul line. In the first overtime, Libuw took over, firing 6 points, while Pangelinan added a triple and Dela Cruz contributed a field goal.

Libuw exploded for 37 points, while Pangelinan, Tenorio, Dela Cruz, and Raymark Castro also hit double figures, chipping in 21, 15, 14, and 11, respectively.

Pagarao matched Libuw's output on a losing effort for Spigen, while Sanciangco tallied 22, but did not play in the extension period due to five fouls.

Meanwhile, the Gold Ballers drew 20-plus points from three players and pulled away in the fourth to beat White Haus.

Prince Factor delivered 27 points, while Raymond Velasco and Rommel Usi registered 24 and 21, respectively.

Saturday Game

Vendetta 103 — Libuw 37, Pangelinan 21, Tenorio 16, Dela Cruz 14, Castro 11, Sablan 5.

Spigen 99 — Lerio 22, Sanciangco 22, Flores 11, Umali 11, Cortez 6, Aniciete 4, Tobias 3, Tibayan 2.

Scoring by quarters: 21-13, 47-32, 59-59, 79-79, 90-90 (1OT), 103-99 (2OT).

Sunday Game

Gold Ballers 110 — Factor 27, Velasco 24, Usi 21, Mateo 16, Avila 11, Cortes 4.

White Haus 88 — Quizon 24, Barbo 23, Mateo 14, Nonato 13, Tabora 10, Ocampo 4.

Scoring by quarters: 26-21, 51-40, 79-72, 110-88.

BORJA

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most in the fall season—brought TanHoldings' total in 10 games to 35, which led the division and more than nine against champion MP United (26) and ahead by six over runner-up Matansa (29).

Matansa's Lolobeyong settled for the No. 2 spot in the Golden Boot race as he only made one goal in their last game against Shirley's for a total of 11. Miyawaki dropped to third, as their match versus Kanoa FC ended up in a scoreless draw. Shirley's FC's Rommel Mendoza and MP United's Richard Steele, who earned nine apiece, and Kanoa's Markus Toves (8) rounded out the Top 5.

Meanwhile, Sunjoon Tenorio capped his domination in the boys U17 division after collecting 19 goals. Tenorio, who led the Golden Boot race since Week 2 of the competition after making a hat trick against Paire, added two in their last game and 12-1 victory over the National Developing Academy. He made both goals in the opening half, nailing the first in the 19th minute and the second five minutes later.

MP United had a 1-2 finish in the Golden Boot contest, as Tenorio's teammate Skyler Poon totaled 14 goals. The two MP United strikers were the only players to have more than 10 goals in the fall season.

Matansa's Louie Calayag fell short with his nine despite posting four in their 10-0 domination of Paire during the division's final game at the Hopwood Middle School Field last Nov. 11. MP United's Anthony Fruit and TanHoldings' Mark Esalan completed the Top 7 after earning eight and seven, respectively.

Mundo prevails in Tinian's 3rd grappling tourney

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Perry Mundo defeated all of his opponents in the round-robin format to emerge as the overall winner in Team Tinian's Open Weight Submission Grappling Tournament 3: The Taga Invitational held last Saturday at the Tinian Gymnasium.

Mundo was undefeated in his three matches, beating Nick Ayuyu in the opener via Americana then followed it up with a victory over Allen Manglona by rear naked choke. He ended his matches by submitting Peter Ayuyu via guillotine choke.

Nick Ayuyu, after losing to Mundo, used the guillotine choke against Peter Ayuyu then employed an armbar submission against Manglona to finish second. Manglona's lone win was against Peter Ayuyu, as the former forced the latter to tap out via scarfhold chest compression.

With Mundo's triumph, he now joins Lorenzo Attao of Saipan and Manglona on the winners list of Team Tinian's open grappling event.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nick Ayuyu, top, grimaces in pain from a tight hold of Perry Mundo during their match in Team Tinian's Open Weight Submission Grappling Tournament 3: The Taga Invitational held last Saturday at the Tinian Gymnasium.

"What an awesome experience it was. The competition was fierce; I am amazed by the talent, athleticism, skills, intensity, and the potential that these islanders possess," said Manglona, who also acts as Team Tinian's coach/trainer.

"The practice of grappling is an excellent way to build endurance, improve physical strength and mental focus and can be applied as a self-defense tool. I believe that competitions such as this can help raise the island's overall grappling IQ and I hope that more people in the CNMI will practice the wonderful art," he added.

MENDIOLA

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get the gold and battle for the overall championship here in Guam. I just fell short for the overall title, but it's still a huge win for me because I usually place third in my weight category. So, winning first was a huge accomplishment for me. It felt great to go up against the best for the [overall] championship," Mendiola told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview last Sunday.

His latest win came almost two weeks after placing third in the 2017 NPC Sean Ray's Hawaiian Classic in Honolulu. The 23-year-old also won his division and the overall championship in last month's Dee Clayton Classic and came in at third in the Ikaika Classic in June this year.

"It's a very successful year for me. I've won in every stage I've stepped on this year. I'm just glad to represent," said Mendiola, who weighed 173lbs the night of the competition.

Mendiola said his latest achievements in Guam made him more determined to target the overall crown in next year's bodybuilding tournament.

"I beat the heavyweight and bantamweight [division winners], if I'm correct. I had a great battle for the overall title against fellow bodybuilders from Guam, Hawaii, and Japan. I'll be back bigger, stronger, and way more conditioned for next year. By next year, I will be more than capable of winning the overall championship," he said

What's next for him after the competition? Mendiola answered that he's ready for the holidays. "I'll have a few cheat meals," he added with a laugh.

"But I want to stay lean before bulking up so I can provide a stronger and better physique for next year. My ultimate goal is to go pro in the [International Federation of Bodybuilding & Fitness]. I know I can reach that goal with the right guidance, positivity, and mind set," he said.

Mendiola currently works as a personal trainer at Latte Built, making it a perfect job for him. "It helps me a lot with my bodybuilding career."

Meanwhile, Aaron Tomokane and Enrico Valdez also competed in Guam with the former placing third in bodybuilding's heavyweight division and the latter coming in at fourth in the physique short class.

Domontinez Watts (bantamweight), Japan's Kikuo Asano (lightweight), Sean Aikman (welterweight), and Gregory Roque Aguon (heavyweight) were the other competitors for the overall crown. Asano went home with the overall title in the Guam National Physique Federation-organized competition.

2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League Festival

PHOTOS By JON PEREZ

A Southern United player, right, follows the ball, while Shirley's FC defenders chase him during their coed U8 game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League Festival at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Kanoa FC players in the U12 division pose with their coaches.

TanHoldings FC players in the U8, U10, and U12 divisions join their coaches and officials for a group photo.

TanHoldings FC U10 players join their coaches and club officials for a group photo after their game.

Southern United players celebrate after winning their U8 game against TanHoldings FC.

A Southern United player, right, tries to get past two MP United defenders during their U12 coed match.

A Paire FC player, left, tries to keep control of the ball while facing the defense of Matansa's Wataru Kadokura in their U10 coed game.

TanHoldings' Nathan Perez, third left, dribbles past a Matansa player, second left, while his teammates Kian Estolas, left, and Kay Anne Costales try to catch up on the play.

Brady, Patriots dominate Raiders in Mexico City

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Sports

Lonzo's triple-double sends Lakers past Denver

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Mendiola wins gold in Guam

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

It is turning out to be a banner year for Donivan Mendiola, as he triumphed anew after winning a gold medal in the 2017 Michelob Ultra Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships, and International Invitational held last weekend at the Sheraton Laguna in Tamuning, Guam.

Mendiola clinched the middleweight title, making him the first bodybuilder from Saipan or the CNMI to earn top honors in the annual tournament. He also placed third overall in the Nov. 17 competition.

Despite falling short in his goal to claim the overall title, Mendiola was not discouraged and instead is motivated to work harder to prepare for next year's event and other tournaments.

"I'm the first person from Saipan to

See MENDIOLA on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Donivan Mendiola, left, poses with one of the competitors in the 2017 Michelob Ultra Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships, and International Invitational held last weekend at the Sheraton Laguna in Tamuning, Guam.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
TanHoldings Football Club's Taka Borja dribbles away from Paire defenders during their boys U14 division game in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League last Nov. 11 at the Koblerville Elementary School Field.

Borja, Tenorio top Golden Boot races

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club's Taka Borja saved the best for last, as the five goals he scored against Paire FC at the conclusion of the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League gave him the Golden Boot title in the boys U14 division.

Coming into their last game in the double-round robin competition, Borja had 10 goals for a tie for first place with Matansa's Benito Lolobeyong and MP United's Rintaro Miyawaki.

Borja eventually broke the deadlock after hitting five straight goals in TanHoldings' 12-1 demolition of Paire last Nov. 11. The TanHoldings striker started his string of goals against Paire in the 50th minute and the next four came in the 58th, 59th, 64th, and 66th.

Borja's five goals—his

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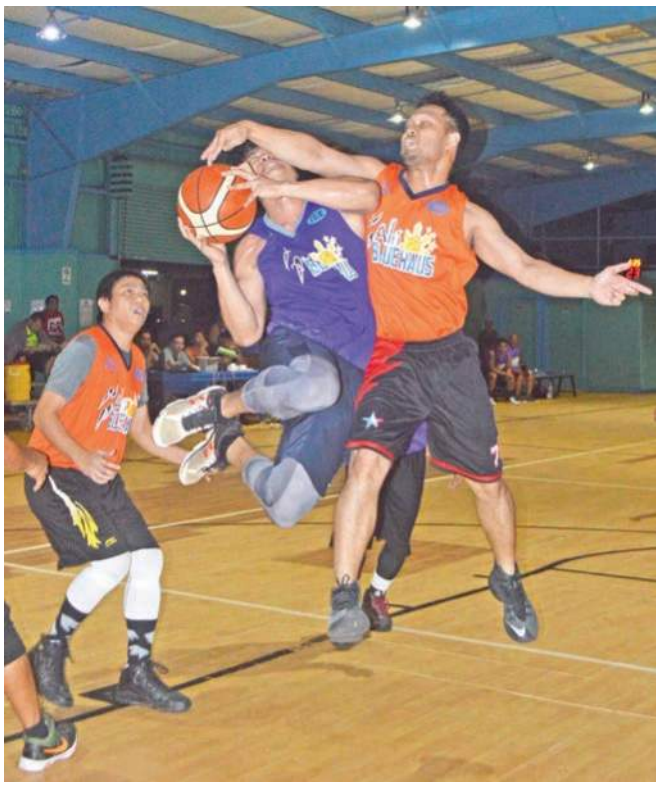
Vendetta in, Gold Ballers out



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Vendetta's James Dela Cruz, center, is fouled hard by Spigen's Lerio Pagarao, while the latter's teammate Gerald Aniciete looks on during the third quarter of their game in the IT&E-sponsored Ali'i Blue Haus caging last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Vendetta's late push in the 2nd Ali'i Blue Haus Invitational Basketball League paid dividends as it advanced to the playoffs, while the Gold Ballers got the boot at the conclusion of the regular season.

Vendetta outlasted Spigen, 103-99, in a double-overtime match last Saturday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium, while the Gold Ballers also won its final elimination game against White Haus last Sunday, 110-88. With their victories, Vendetta and Gold Ballers finished the round-robin elimination with similar 5-6 records for a standoff with Spigen and Green Minded for No. 7 to No. 10 spot in the team standings.

Out of the four tied squads, only two were eligible to join Batang Bear Brand, Silencer, Black Mamba, Tropang Ridhors, White Haus, and Team Sawi to the playoff round and the last two qualifiers were determined via quotient system (total points scored in 11 games divided by total points allowed to opponents. Spigen ended up having the best quotient (1.183) among the four teams to get the No. 7 slot, while Vendetta came in at second (1.060) and took the last playoff seat, leaving Green Minded (0.923) and Gold Ballers (0.848) out of the picture.

The win over Spigen was fifth in a row for Vendetta, which seemed headed to the exit door after going 0-6.

Ed Pangelinan delivered in the second overtime for Vendetta, knocking in back-to-back triples, while Gino Libuw and James Dela Cruz drilled clutch free throws to

See VENDETTA on Page 26